

Five Chevy Chase Circle To Be Setting For Spring Gala Champagne Supper

The Chevy Chase Historical Society is delighted to announce that it will hold its annual Spring Gala Champagne Supper on Sunday, April 27, from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. The gala will be hosted by Mr. and Mrs. William Maloni in their gracious home at 5 Chevy Chase Circle.

The property once was the site of a one story school house, built in 1893. The home was owned by All Saints Church from 1949 to 1977, and served as the rectory for All Saints. It is built in the Craftsman style, with stucco walls on the first floor and wood shingles on the second. The rear yard features a spacious terrace, pergola and lap pool. The house, with its gabled slate roof, presides over a century-old stand of boxwood that is familiar to all who travel about Chevy Chase Circle.

As in recent years past, the supper at this year's gala will be catered by Restaurant La Ferme, which is located on Brookville Road in Chevy Chase. Music will be provided for the enjoyment of the guests.

Attendance at the gala is by invitation only. Invitations will be mailed in March, and a prompt response is recommended in order to ensure a reservation for this ever popular event. Questions concerning reservations may be directed to Helen Secrest at (301) 652-4878.

Society Seeks Volunteers

Interested in volunteering your time to CCHS? We are looking for people to docent our archives, assist with photographs and oral histories, and perform many other interesting tasks. Call our new Volunteer Coordinator, Mary Anne Tuohey, at (301) 656-1779, and join us in our commitment to make the rich history of Chevy Chase available to all.

photo by George Kinter



5 Chevy Chase Circle

Fund Raising Campaign Nears Goal

Many neighbors and friends of Chevy Chase Historical Society have helped to *Cherish Our Past, Champion Our Future*. One hundred-twenty individuals, companies, and municipalities have expressed their support for the society's goals for the future with donations and pledges totaling more than \$285,000. We are deeply grateful for this wide support and show of confidence.

The latest contribution, of \$5,000, was made by the Village of Martin's Additions on January 15, 2003. The Society's archives contain a large collection of papers and newsletters from Martin's Additions. We are delighted to add to that collection the additional official papers that Martin's Additions also has donated.

It is not too late to help us meet our goal of \$350,000! We welcome your checks and pledges. Checks should be made payable to CCHS Building/

Cont. on page 2

Chevy Chase Historical Society Newsletter



Chevy Chase Historical Society
Post Office Box 15145
Chevy Chase, MD 20825-5145

Officers

Angela Lancaster President
Mary Sheehan Vice President
Alice Kinter Recording Secretary
Helen Secrest Corresponding Secretary
Margaret Adelphio Treasurer

Directors

Fran Schorr Past President
Julie Thomas Member-at-Large
Patti Rosenfeld Member-at-Large
Carol Coffin Advisor to the Board
Mary Anne Tuohey Advisor to the Board

Committee Chairs

Archives Joan Marsh
Bulletin Board Julie Thomas
Exhibits Susan Elwell
Friends of C.C. Circle Barbara Price
House Research Alice Kinter
Maps Carol Coffin
Membership Helen Secrest
Note Cards Fran Schorr
Oral History Marjorie Zapruder
Photographs Eleanor Ford
Programs Mary Sheehan
Public Relations Ann Toch
Volunteers Mary Anne Tuohey

Newsletter Editor Wendy Adams
Newsletter Production John Tuohey

CCHS Archives and Research Center

Chevy Chase Community Library
8005 Connecticut Avenue
Tel.: 301-656-6141
Fax: 301-656-5114

Open 1:00 to 5:00 p.m.
on Tuesdays and by appointment.

The Chevy Chase Historical Society is a non-profit organization founded in 1981 to discover, record, and preserve the history of the Maryland and Washington neighborhoods known as Chevy Chase.

Fund Raising continued from page 1

Development Fund and sent to the Chevy Chase Historical Society, P.O. Box 15145, Chevy Chase, MD 20825-5145.

If you have questions, please call Campaign Co-chairs Carol Coffin (301) 656-6874 or Fran Schorr (240) 497-0392. And visit our new Archives and Research Center, at the Chevy Chase Community Library at 8005 Connecticut Avenue. The center is open on Tuesdays from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m., and by appointment.



photo by Richard Marsh

Members of the Council of the Village of Martin's Additions agree to donate council papers to CCHS archives. From left: Ed Ratatter; Steve Schmal; Don Tice, Council Chair; Angela Lancaster, CCHS President; Althea Harlin; Joan Marsh, CCHS Archivist; and Ken Brotman.

Leadership Gifts

Chevy Chase Bank	Ann Mehringer and Terry Beatty
Chevy Chase Land Company	Eleanor and George Ford
Town of Chevy Chase	Carol and Rip Coffin
Chevy Chase Village	Mary Anne and John Tuohey

Major Gifts

Section 3 of Chevy Chase	Joan and Dick Marsh
Section 5 of Chevy Chase	Carol and Mike McGarry
Martin's Additions	Julie Davis and John Metz
Village of Drummond	Mildred Bland Miller
Katharine and Sharon Farr	Marilyn and John Montgomery
Catherine Cotter and John Finneran	Angela Lancaster and
Florence Fowlkes	Chuck Muckenfuss
Martha Ann Healy	Carter and Tom Perry
Alice and George Kinter	Lee Petty
Martha Dippel and Daniel Korengold	Judy and Jim Robinson
Linda and Jonathan Lyons	Patti and Ron Rosenfeld
Sue and Alaster MacDonald	Margaret and Bob Stillman
Mary Sheehan and Tony Marra	Julie and Ollie Thomas
	Anonymous

RECENT ACQUISITIONS

This is the debut of "Recent Acquisitions," which will be a regular feature in the newsletter, describing documents and other items that are acquired for the society's Archives and Research Center.

In recent months, CCHS has added the following material to its Archives and Research Center.

- A quart-size milk bottle from Wise Brothers Chevy Chase Dairy. It is made of pressed glass, with a picture of a mother giving a baby a bottle on the back. It was donated by Sylvia Jones, whose neighbor found it in her back yard 40 years ago.
- Items donated by Margaret Kranking that pertain to the Tracewell family, including family photographs, letters to the *Evening Star* about columnist Charles E. Tracewell at the time of his death, the *Star* obituaries regarding Charles Tracewell and his father Robert, clippings of Charles Tracewell's "This 'n That" column, his draft card, and a plaque awarded to Cuba Tracewell by the Village of Martin's Additions.
- A small catalogue from the Chevy Chase Country Day School that was run by Stanwood Cobb at his home at 17 Grafton Street. It was donated by Gail Redmond, librarian of the Historical Society of Washington, D.C. This acquisition is significant because, although CCHS has many of Cobb's books, and knows of the school, we have never had access to a good description of it before.
- A 1988 volume of working papers from John Kay, former manager of the Village of Martin's Additions.

Do you have information about our history?

Now that the CCHS has an official office and is able to store and preserve records, the "house research committee" is welcoming donations of oral histories, maps, and records pertaining to the development and buildings in the area. Printed documents would be copied and the original returned to their owner. If you are interested in sharing stories or information regarding homes in the neighborhood, please contact Victoria Knopes at 301-718-8429 or by email FIVEKNO@aol.



Architects's rendering of restored Avalon facade
(courtesy of the Avalon Theatre Project)

GALA EVENING AND "AVALON COMMUNITY DAY" TO CELEBRATE REOPENING OF AVALON THEATER

The gallant uphill fight to save Chevy Chase's 1923 Avalon Theater has become a victory. The theater, now undergoing extensive restoration, will reopen in March to appropriate fanfare.

This reversal of fortune is due to a superbly successful partnership between new lessee Doug Jemal of Douglas Development, and the grassroots Avalon Theater Project led by Chevy Chase, D.C. resident Bob Zich. Individual, corporate, and foundation contributions of \$300,000, and Jemal's generous support, are making possible the elegant period design and outfitting of the theater's interior (with state of the art projection and sound equipment), revelation of its handsome original exterior, and its reopening as a movie house.

The Theater Project will hold a pre-opening event for those who helped raise funds by purchasing seats for the theater. Every seat has been sold, except for a handful in the small upstairs theater. Each bears a plaque, worded by the purchaser(s). Some plaques bear the purchasers' names, some are in memory of others, including one commemorating Rock Hudson and Doris Day, and one memorializes a couple's first date (at the Avalon, of course).

A VIP opening is slated for Thursday, March 27, for the media to visit the theater and see artists doing finishing touches, and with an evening movie screening for major contributors and District officials. On Sunday, March 30, from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., the Theater Project will hold a celebratory "Avalon Community Day," as a thank you to the Chevy Chase community. Children through seniors are welcome at this free event. It will feature tours, a lecture, exhibits, other activities, and free ice cream from Ben and Jerry's and food from Chipotle, to introduce the community to its reopened theater.

On June 1, the project will hold a gala fundraising event that will start at the theater in the early evening with a movie screening, then move to the atrium of Chevy Chase Pavillion. Attendance is open to the public, but limited to the theater's seating capacity of approximately 440, so early ticket purchase is encouraged.

Gala ticket information, seat purchase information, and all other information regarding opening events, will be available on the project's web site, www.theavalon.org



Bird's eye view of Chevy Chase Circle today



Newlands Fountain before collision damage

JEWEL AT THROAT OF CITY TO BE RESTORED TO FORMER LUSTER

Wonderful news! The United States Park Service has commenced work on restoring the massive destruction to the fountain basin, benches, and flower beds in Chevy Chase Circle. The damage was inflicted by three major automobile accidents at the circle, the first of which occurred in January 2001.

The destruction has been particularly disheartening to Chevy Chase residents, as the circle's fountain recently had been refurbished, and the surrounding area replanted with flowering trees, azaleas, and roses, by the Friends of Chevy Chase Circle. Ms. Barbara Price had brought together the United States Park Service, CCHS, the Garden Club of Chevy Chase, and Chevy Chase Village to form the Friends. Chevy Chase Bank, the Chevy Chase Land Company, Clyde's of Chevy Chase, and CCHS, as well as many individuals in the community, had contributed funds to the effort.

The circle is one of a number of points of entry into the District of Columbia that were officially marked and ornamentally distinguished in the first half of the twentieth century. When the Newlands fountain was dedicated at a public ceremony in 1933, the Garden Club of America presented two engraved obelisks to serve as entrance markers. The markers celebrated the bicentennial of George Washington's birth.

In 1990, the Chevy Chase Land Company commemorated its centennial by placement of a plaque announcing the company's rededication of the circle and restoration of the fountain. For many years, the markers stood on the triangles of land on Connecticut Avenue at the (opposite) Maryland and District sides of the circle, until one marker was lost and the other damaged.

Now the markers have been recovered and repaired by the father-son team of Constantine and Andy Seferlis, with generous contributions from the Garden

Club of Chevy Chase and other contributors. The Park Service has decided the safest place for the markers will be between the azaleas and the inner walkway around the fountain. One will stand on the east side of the fountain, the other on the west. Their placement is planned for late spring, following repair of the broken flagstones in the walkways.

The Park Service has installed a safety fence around the area of damage. According to Ms. Cindy Cox of the Park Service, new cap stones are being made for the fountain rim. On-site work will proceed as weather permits. Ms. Cox believes that the majority of the masonry work will be completed by spring. A new pool liner for the fountain basin will need the proper amount of dry weather to cure, and this could cause some delay. The Park Service probably will replace the missing trees, azaleas, and roses in early spring as well. The Service plans to place protective posts or "bollards" among the azaleas to help protect the benches and fountain from further automotive intrusions.

*If men could learn from history, what lessons it might teach us!
But passion and party blind our eyes and the light of experience . . . shines
only on the waves behind us.*
—S. T. Coleridge

Farewell to Helen Wolcott, Our Longtime Friend

Long time Chevy Chase resident, Helen Wolcott, died on February 29, 2003. Miss Wolcott lived in Chevy Chase 86 of her 89 years, was an active member of the Chevy Chase Presbyterian Church, and was a wonderful friend and neighbor. Miss Wolcott was one of the first people to give her oral history to CCHS and was one of our first members. She will be missed.