



CCHS 2025 Spring Gala Held in Renovated Classic Home



21 Quincy Street, Chevy Chase, Maryland.

CCHS and its guests could not have asked for a more perfect day for the 2025 Spring Gala! Sunday, May 18, 2025, brought clear blue skies and delightful spring sunshine. Hosts Jennifer and Drew Tulumello warmly welcomed Gala guests to their recently renovated home at 21 Quincy Street.

Built in 1905, the white frame house features an elegant porte cochere, spacious wrap-around porch, and four original bay windows bringing extra light into both the first and second floors. The property has witnessed 120 years of history as well as the cherished family life of its few former owners. The first owner of the house was William Henry Gottlieb, who served as a member of Chevy Chase Village's first Board of Managers.

The architectural character of early Chevy Chase was a notably diverse mix of prevailing national styles, including Queen Anne, Shingle Style, and Classical Revival, among others. One of the most prevalent of these transitional forms was the American Foursquare,

exemplified by 21 Quincy Street. Foursquare houses typically featured a box-like massing with four square rooms per floor, often complemented by projecting bays and wrap-around porches. Vestiges of an original foursquare plan remain at 21 Quincy Street, complemented by the Tulumellos' comprehensive renovation and rear addition.

The Tulumellos have devoted themselves to meticulously updating the property to create a home for their active, modern family. While carefully preserving the charm of the original structure, they have infused the historic house with 21st century elegance and up-to-date features.

CCHS warmly thanks the Tulumellos for their hospitality and support of CCHS, and Gala Co-Chairs Debbie Glynn and Kathie Legg for orchestrating an elegant evening that our guests will long remember. Their dedication and attention to detail ensured a celebration that beautifully reflected the spirit and mission of CCHS.



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Open 10 a.m. to 12 noon, and 1 to 3 p.m.
 on Tuesday and by appointment

The Chevy Chase Historical Society collects, records, interprets, and shares materials relating to the history of Chevy Chase, Maryland, one of America's first streetcar suburbs. The organization provides resources for historical research and sponsors a variety of programs and activities to foster knowledge and appreciation of the community's history.

Chevy Chase Historical Society is supported in part by funding from the Montgomery County Government and the Arts & Humanities Council of Montgomery County.

Recent Acquisitions

"Recent Acquisitions" is a regular feature in the Newsletter, describing documents and other items acquired for the CCHS Archive and Research Center.



Chevy Chase Reading Class, circa 1905.

In the fall of 1899, four women—Elizabeth Verrill, Mary Robertson, Fanny Richards, and Grace Bown—founded the Chevy Chase Reading Class, a literary club for women in the new suburb of Chevy Chase. Meeting weekly from October to April, the group grew steadily, reaching 14 members by 1905. Remarkably, founding member Mary Robertson (pictured middle row, third from left) continued attending class meetings as late as 1962.

In March 2025, Mary Robertson's grandson, Tom Robertson, donated Mary's original Reading Class programs from 1900-1901 and 1901-1902. Delicately hand-painted and ribbon-bound, these programs include book lists, discussion leaders, and reading notes.

We are deeply grateful to Tom Robertson for this generous gift which offers a rare glimpse into the intellectual and social life of early Chevy Chase. These beautifully preserved annuals are a testament to the enduring spirit of community, curiosity, and connection that began over a century ago.

To learn more about the Chevy Chase Reading Class, explore our virtual exhibit at chevychasehistory.org/reading-class.



Chevy Chase Reading Class Program, 1901-1902.

“Separate but UNequal: The History of School Segregation in Montgomery County”

Fall Lecture: Sunday, November 16, 2025, 3:00 pm, Chevy Chase Village Hall

Join the Chevy Chase Historical Society for an illuminating lecture with historian Ralph Buglass as he uncovers Montgomery County’s pivotal yet often-overlooked role in the fight to end racially segregated schooling in America. Despite the stark inequalities that defined local education for nearly a century, the county became an unexpected touchstone in the struggle that helped lead to the Supreme Court’s landmark decision to overturn segregation.

Through a richly illustrated presentation, Buglass brings to life the resilience and determination of those who fought for equal opportunity, revealing how the pursuit of justice unfolded not only in courtrooms but in classrooms across the county.

A frequent speaker for Montgomery History, Buglass will also serve as the keynote for the organization’s upcoming 250th anniversary conference. He is the co-author of *Images of America: Rockville*, a



Love and Charity Hall School (Poolesville, Maryland, circa 1901). Reprinted from G. W. McDaniel, 1979.

pictorial history of the county seat, and teaches life-long learning courses on local history at American University and other institutions.

This program is free and open to the public. For more information, please contact CCHS at 301-656-6141 or info@chevychasehistory.org.

2025 Spring Lecture

“Indigenous DC: Native Peoples and the Nation’s Capital”



Dr. Elizabeth Rule at the Chevy Chase Village Hall.

As part of a continuing lecture series on Hidden Histories, the Chevy Chase Historical Society hosted Dr. Elizabeth Rule for a compelling and eye-opening presentation based on her groundbreaking 2023 book, *Indigenous DC: Native Peoples and the Nation’s*

Capital. The free illustrated talk took place on Sunday, March 2, before a large and attentive audience at the Chevy Chase Village Hall. Here, Rule explored the often-hidden histories of Native communities in the city, challenging the traditional narrative that largely ignored or distorted their presence. Dr. Rule also challenged long-held assumptions about Washington, D.C., as merely the seat of American political power. She reframed the city as a vital and contested space within Indian Country. Her talk urged a broader, more inclusive understanding of the capital—one that recognizes the rich, complex, and ongoing role of Native peoples in shaping its identity..

The Chevy Chase Historical Society was honored to host Dr. Rule. Her insights offered attendees a deeper understanding of the complex histories of race, place, and memory in Chevy Chase and beyond, forstering a deeper curiosity about our community’s layered past.

Jazz at Chevy Chase Lake

On a rather warm September night in 1933, the brassy blare of swinging horns and the pulse of syncopated rhythms floated across the still waters of Chevy Chase Lake, spilling out from the band stand toward the trolley tracks and picnic grounds that once made the area a favored suburban retreat for Washingtonians. Inside the bustling dance pavilion nearby, over 1,800 fans swayed, shouted, and surged with energy as Black Jazz musician Cab Calloway (1907 - 1994) unleashed his now-iconic scat refrain: “Hi-de-hi-de-hi, ho-de-ho-de-ho!”



Simulation of Chevy Chase Lake Band Stand. William Duvall (1995).

The crowd roared as the chorus of *Minnie the Moocher*, first recorded in 1931 and having sold over a million copies, thundered through the venue. That night, September 7, 1933, Maryland-born Calloway brought Harlem’s dynamic jazz scene to Chevy Chase, Maryland, and in doing so, “knocked all of Chevy Chase Lake box office records into smithereens” (Nancy Wilson, “Cab Calloway: ‘A Hi De Ho Centennial,’” December 26, 2007). Jazz, swing, and big band music—rooted in Southern Black musical traditions—rose to national prominence during the Harlem Renaissance, a defining era of Black art, music, literature, and culture in the early 20th century. A true icon of jazz, Cab Calloway enjoyed a five-decade career, regularly appearing in film, vaudeville, and radio, and touring across the country (Henry Louis Gates Jr. and Evelyn Brooks Higginbotham, *Harlem Renaissance Lives from the African American National Biography*; Laurel Bettis, *Historical Perspectives*, 2012).



Cab Calloway during a musical performance in *Stormy Weather* (1943).

By 1933, Chevy Chase Lake, and the amusement park along its shores, had been a thriving hub of entertainment for almost forty years, offering a wide range of amusements including games, ice skating, boating, dancing, vaudeville, and concerts. Despite its popularity, the Lake also maintained a deeply troubling policy: the explicit exclusion of Black patrons from the amusement park. This harsh reality is underscored in an 1898 letter to *The Washington Post* by Henry J. Billings, which illustrates the extent of this discriminatory practice:

“A gentleman and his wife, who are next door neighbors to me, went to Chevy Chase Lake a few weeks ago...they were accosted by a watchman and told the grounds were private and that they could not cross. Unluckily for this couple, they are...classed among the most respectable colored people in the District”

Despite the categorical exclusion of Black patrons, several orchestras invited to perform at Chevy Chase Lake, including Cab Calloway’s, were either racially integrated or composed entirely of Black musicians. This reflected both the growing popularity of African American jazz among white audiences and the broader national pattern of racially segregated entertainment. At Chevy Chase Lake, this contradiction between exclusion and performance echoed broader societal shifts. From the barring of Black residents in the 1890s, as evidenced by Henry J. Billings’ letter, to the blackface and minstrel shows of the early 20th century, to the amateur Black performers at Dixieland Nights in the mid-1920s, and ultimately to the headline jazz concerts of the 1930s, the intersection of entertainment and race at the Lake evolved, mirroring changes unfolding in both Chevy Chase and American society at large.

Following the tremendous success of Cab Calloway's 1933 performance, Chevy Chase Lake managers Eddie Carr and Al Stern began booking additional high-profile Black performers, reflecting the surging popularity of jazz bands. On June 27, 1934, Blanche Calloway (1902–1978), Cab's older sister and the woman widely credited with launching his career, made her debut at the Lake. Dubbed the "Queen of Jazz" by the *Washington Herald*, Blanche had performed alongside legendary artists such as Louis Armstrong, Josephine Baker, and Chick Webb, and was notably the first woman to lead an all-male jazz orchestra. Her performance at Chevy Chase Lake, which "packed 'em in" and "taxed the capacity of the pavilion," was so successful that she was invited back for a return engagement on August 15, 1934 ("Blanche Calloway at 'Lake' Tonight," *Times Herald*, June 27, 1934; "Dining and Dancing," *The Washington Daily News*, July 31, 1934).



Blanche Calloway and Her Joy Boys (1935). Courtesy of the Harvard Theatre Collection.

A month later, Luis Russell and His Orchestra were the next nationally-renowned jazz group to perform at the Lake. Born in Panama, Luis Russell (1902-1963) was an influential Afro-Caribbean pianist, bandleader, and composer who was a mainstay at the Savoy Ballroom in Harlem and other legendary jazz venues. Known for his close work with Louis Armstrong, Russell is described as "the most important figure in the history of jazz you've perhaps never heard of" (Paul N. Kahn, "Call of the Freaks, Luis Russell & Louis Armstrong, Musical Pals: An Illustrated History," 2018). Despite a late start on July 11, 1934, caused by transportation delays, Russell's band delivered a powerful performance that attendees hailed as the "greatest colored band in the business" ("Downey Coming," *Times Herald*, July 14, 1934; "Crack Band at Lake," July 11, 1934).



Luis Russell band, New York City (1928). Courtesy of the Frank Driggs Collection.

In 1936, Chevy Chase Lake closed, bringing to an end a brief but remarkable period during which some of the most celebrated Black jazz orchestras performed before enthusiastic, predominantly white audiences. These concerts not only underscored the growing national popularity of jazz in the 1930s, but also highlighted the complex and often contradictory relationship between entertainment and race. While Black musicians were increasingly welcomed onstage for their talent and commercial appeal, they continued to face exclusion as patrons and community members. The history of jazz at Chevy Chase Lake reveals how Black performers navigated a segregated society, transforming spaces of exclusion into stages for cultural expression and professional achievement, even as the boundaries of access and equality remained tightly drawn.

This article was written by **Wanjiru Duncan**, M.Arch., MHP, and archival intern at CCHS. We thank Wanjiru for her hard work, thoughtful research, and valuable contributions to preserving and sharing our community's history.



Gala guests were greeted along the front walk by a charming, colorful flower cart, filled with small individual vases and blooms that were given to each guest as they left the party.

A Perfect Evening for the 2025 Spring Gala

Gala hosts Jennifer and Drew Tulumello graciously welcomed guests to their recently renovated home for CCHS' annual celebration of our community's unique history. Over cocktails, guests toured the comprehensive renovations and additions the Tulumellos have made to their historic home. Then the perfect spring weather beckoned guests to bring their drinks outdoors. Dinner was then served, and guests were seated, under a spacious tent in the luxurious garden alive with spring colors.

CCHS Archive Director Samantha Burnett, and board member Carolyn Greis, produced a beautifully illustrated and informative exhibit on the history of the Gala house and its prior owners. Colorful spring flower displays, arranged by volunteer Valerie Grace, were placed throughout the house and garden. Lively

music was provided by the Levine School of Music Jazz Trio. Volunteer photographers Bill Mills, Katherine Peter, and Lauren Pfeil captured the event in photos including those in this Newsletter.

Alain Roussel and his team from La Ferme Restaurant prepared and served a delectable buffet dinner and kept the champagne flowing. CCHS board member Mary Sheehan welcomed the guests, warmly thanked the Tulumellos for their cordial hospitality, and presented them with an illustrated bound history of their home and a crystal plaque commemorating the Gala.

The Chevy Chase Historical Society is grateful to the sponsors and friends of the Gala for their generosity and support, and to all who attended this annual celebration of Chevy Chase history.



Kathie Legg, Jennifer Tulumello, Andrew Tulumello, Margot Tulumello, and Debbie Glynn.



Guests arriving for an evening of celebration.



Guests mingle on the wraparound porch, enjoying the historic charm of the evening setting.



Mary Gielow, Charlotte Jones Carroll, and Joan Churchill.



A memorable dinner was served by La Ferme.



An evening of outdoor dining near the renovated backyard patio and carriage house.



Gala host Andrew Tulumello and his daughter, Margot Tulumello, view the house history exhibit.



CCHS Director Samantha Burnett and CCHS Intern Wanjiru Duncan.



Guests attentively listen as CCHS board member Mary Sheehan delivers her remarks.



Gala guests enjoy dining al fresco in the spacious and beautifully landscaped garden.



Blue was the color of the day.



Meeting new friends.



Helen and Bill Mills.



Jonathan Rogers, Ellie Rogers, Megan Carter, and Mitchell Sams.



Muffin Lynham, Ben Gielow, and Tom Moore.



Tom Hogan, John Higgins, and Martha Hogan.



Diners gathered under the tent.



The Levine School of Music Jazz Trio.

Thank you to the CCHS 2025 Spring Gala Sponsors!

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Help Us Preserve the History of Hawkins Lane

Hawkins Lane is a historic Black enclave in Chevy Chase with deep community roots and a rich cultural legacy. The Chevy Chase Historical Society is collecting oral histories to document and honor the stories of those connected to this unique neighborhood. If you, or someone you know, has memories or connections to Hawkins Lane and would like to participate, please contact us at info@chevychasehistory.org