



CHEVY CHASE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2018



Spring Gala Celebrates Town's Centennial

The Chevy Chase Historical Society's 2018 Spring Gala was held on Sunday, April 29, and celebrated the 100th anniversary of the Town of Chevy Chase. The event was hosted by Lexi and Colin McKay at their home at 6800 Connecticut Avenue, one of the oldest homes in the Town. Built in 1921 on the corner of Rosemary Street and Connecticut Avenue, this gracious home is an excellent example of the larger houses built along the important Connecticut Avenue corridor during the early development of Chevy Chase. While the original designer is unknown, by the late 19th century many American architects had visited Italy and were familiar with the formal, symmetrical Renaissance palazzos. They designed similar houses in the United States through the 1930s, with flat or low-pitched hip roofs and classical features. With its traditional stucco finish and classic door and window surrounds, this house displays strong characteristics of an Italian Renaissance style home.

The McKay's spacious and hospitable home was previously the home of important Washington area residents, beginning with its original owner, Judge Alexander Mulloony. Judge Mulloony served on the District of Columbia Police Court during the turbulent days of the women's suffrage

movement when protesters were arrested, brought before the Judge, and then sentenced to jail.

During the 1970s and 1980s, the house was the home of John Chester Culver, who served as a U.S. congressman from Iowa from 1965 to 1975 and as a U.S. senator from 1975 to 1981. He was defeated in 1980 by the current senator, Chuck Grassley. Senator Culver was the roommate of Edward Kennedy while at Harvard and later served as Kennedy's legislative assistant. He was also a eulogist at Kennedy's funeral in 2009. Senator Culver's son, Chet Culver, who was born in Washington, D.C. and spent his childhood in the home at Connecticut and Rosemary, became active in Iowa politics and served as the state's governor from 2007 to 2011.

After being seriously damaged by a fire in 2013, the house was beautifully restored to provide a truly elegant, light-filled home whose open spaces make all who enter feel welcome.

CCHS thanks the McKay family for opening their beautiful home to gala guests, and thanks the hard-working, creative gala co-chairs, Dima Fayyad and Jessica Johnson, and their committee for orchestrating an elegant and fun-filled evening for all.

Celebrating One of America's First Streetcar Suburbs



CHEVY CHASE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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Beth Huffer, MA
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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.

Recent Acquisitions

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

CCHS recently received an outstanding donation of over 200 images documenting the impact of the construction of the Purple Line on the Chevy Chase Lake area. The images were taken by Chevy Chase residents Bill Lebovich and Lars Hanslin between December 2015 and March 2018. Asked to describe their methodology, they wrote: "We started in December, 2015 (at the request of Gail Sansbury) to record the impact of the construction of the Purple Line on the Chevy Chase Lake Area (and the related portions of the Capital Crescent Trail), including the anticipated demolition or major remodeling of existing commercial properties and homes, and, the anticipated construction of new properties. Within these parameters, we divided the area into a group of neighborhoods roughly north of East-West Highway, east and west of Connecticut Ave. and a few blocks south of the Capital Beltway. We then photographed each neighborhood a number of times (through March, 2018) to document conditions prior to and soon after Purple Line construction commencement."

Bill Lebovich is an architectural historian and photographer and Lars Hanslin is a retired attorney for the National Park Service. CCHS could not be happier to have their expertise in recording the impact of the construction project for our Archive! In the coming months the images will be cataloged and made available on the CCHS website for all to see.

CCHS Welcomes New Archive Director



Beth Huffer, new Archive Director

CCHS is delighted to welcome Beth Huffer as the Director of the CCHS Archive and Research Center. Beth has hit the ground running to assist researchers and manage the CCHS collections. She plans to expand the digital presence of CCHS and ensure the accessibility of the collections.

Before joining CCHS, Beth worked at the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History in New York City. Her most recent position there was Curator of Books and Manuscripts of the Gilder Lehrman Collection. The Collection is made up of more than 70,000 items that cover 500 years of American history, from Columbus' 1493 letter describing the New World to soldiers' letters from World War II and Vietnam.

Beth graduated from the University of Virginia with a double major in History and Art History. Her academic pursuits and a lifelong love of museums propelled her to undergraduate internships at the Woodrow Wilson Presidential Library and the Gibbes Museum of Art. This work cemented her passion for collections management and archives. She then attended New York University where she received her Master's in Museum Studies.

In her spare time, Beth enjoys reading, attending lectures, and exploring all that the Washington, DC region has to offer. Beth brings important expertise and fresh ideas to CCHS and we look forward to working with her. Please stop by the Center to meet her.

Election of CCHS Directors and Officers

At CCHS' Annual Meeting on March 18, the members elected four officers and four at-large directors, whose terms will commence on July 1. The officers are President: Mary Sheehan, Vice President: Susan Bollendorf, Recording Secretary: Natasha Saifee, Treasurer: Kirsten Williams. The directors are Julie Cannistra, Catherine Cecere, John Higgins, and Angela Lancaster.

A Festive and Memorable Spring Gala



Party-goers visit over drinks before dinner.

On April 29, 2018, hosts Lexi and Colin McKay warmly welcomed guests to the CCHS 2018 Spring Gala at their Italianate style home at 6800 Connecticut Ave. Lively conversation filled the gracious home as guests enjoyed drinks, dinner, and good company. CCHS is indebted to the gala co-chairs, Dima Fayyad and Jessica Johnson, for the long hours and creative energy they put into planning this memorable event. A delegation from La Ferme Restaurant kept the champagne and wine flowing and served an elegant buffet dinner. Fresh spring flower arrangements were donated by Susan Bollendorf, who also prepared a brochure on the house history for guests. The Perfect Harmony String Ensemble regaled guests with musical entertainment. Carolyn Greis and Gail Sansbury created an informative exhibit on the rich history of the house, which was carefully researched by volunteer Bob Andrews. Photographer Bill Mills donated his time to capture memories of the evening. CCHS President Angela Lancaster presented the McKays with a bronze plaque and a bound history of their house as mementos of the gala. In addition to the hosts, co-chairs and committee volunteers, CCHS warmly thanks the gala "Sponsors and Friends" (see acknowledgment on page 5) and all of our guests for making this annual celebration of our historic community such a success!



Gala hosts Lexi and Colin McKay with commemorative gala plaque



Gala Co-Chairs Jessica Johnson and Dima Fayyad



The Adelfio family is all smiles



Susan Bollendorf setting up before the big event



Guests enjoy a delectable buffet



Members of the Perfect Harmony String Ensemble entertain guests



Bob Broeksmit and Frank Snodgrass study the house history exhibit



Jim and Blythe Geraghty



Sisters Elizabeth Harris and Marea Grant, whose godparents once lived in the gala house



Karin Rich and Sarah Brophy enjoy chatting



Gail Sansbury and Joseph Busch won a raffle wine basket.



Thomas Carroll and Charlotte Jones Carroll



Katy Farr visits with John Daniel and Wendy Reaves



Karen Kuchins and Eric Murtagh of Murtagh Properties won a wine basket



Keystone Sponsors Chuck Muckenfuss, Angela Lancaster, and Meg and Bob Stillman



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We are deeply grateful to the Sponsors and Friends of the Chevy Chase Historical Society 2018 Gala

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Address Correction Requested

MYSTERY!

"Mystery!" is a regular Newsletter feature, inviting all history-loving sleuths to help solved "mysteries" contained in the CCHS Archive.

This image is of a bungalow built circa 1922 by M. and R.B. Warren. CCHS believes it was built in Section 4, but we would like to identify the address of this charming home. Does anyone know this address?

If you can help solve this mystery, email info@chevychasehistory.org or call 301-656-6141.

