



# NEWS

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May 2013

## 56th House and Garden Tour Celebrates Close-In Neighborhood

**G**et ready for an outstanding House and Garden Tour on Mother’s Day weekend, May 11 and 12, 2013. The tour area, due south of the Capitol and bounded by First Street, C Street, Fourth Street and South Carolina Avenue, SE, has not been highlighted in many years and is not to be missed! The houses range from cozy to spectacular and classic to eclectic, with a variety of styles and features to suit every taste.

When CHRS first looked into this area for the house tour site we were warned against it. The reputation was that, being so close to Congress,

it was nothing but lobbyist offices, apartments and small rental houses in poor condition. Happily, the reality could not be more different.

**Myth #1: The area near Congress is all apartments.** Many houses were converted to rooming houses or flats, especially during the housing crunch of World War II, but four houses on the tour reversed that trend. Houses #2, #4 and #7 were all boarding houses or apartments that have been reclaimed as single-family homes.

*Continued on page 8*



IMAGE COURTESY JUDITH V. MAY

**This 1890 house uses solar panels to cut energy bills.**

### Mother’s Day House and Garden Tour

**Saturday, May 11 · 4–7 pm | Sunday, May 12 · 12–5 pm**

This year’s tour features the neighborhood south of the U.S. Capitol: First to Third Streets, SE, and C Street to South Carolina Avenue, SE.

**Tickets**

Public advance purchase through May 10: \$25; tour weekend, \$30

**Local ticket outlets:**

- Hill Center at the Old Naval Hospital
- Appalachian Spring, Union Station
- Coldwell Banker
- Groovy dc
- Hill’s Kitchen
- homebody
- Prudential Pen Fed Realty

**Eastern Market booth:**

- May 4–5
- May 11–12

**Purchase online via Paypal:**

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# President's Column: You Don't Move to Capitol Hill; You Join It

By Janet Quigley

Last month CHRS had the good fortune to participate in the Hill Center's inaugural volunteer fair, Volunteer Capitol Hill. The event drew hundreds of prospective volunteers eager to find out about new opportunities on the Hill. The day began with a program to honor the extraordinary contributions of the Capitol Hill Community Foundation's Nicky and Steve Cymrot over forty years. Opening the event, Steve shared his view that "You don't move to Capitol Hill; you join it." He reminded the audience how much the Hill has improved over many years, and commended all in attendance for their role in making Capitol Hill the livable community it is today.

In May, the Foundation debuts [www.CapitolHillVolunteers.org](http://www.CapitolHillVolunteers.org), a clearinghouse to promote volunteerism on the Hill. This is a welcome service that will help Capitol Hill residents match up their skills and interests with the needs of local organizations. With a community as active and dedicated as ours, good things are in store.

## Why Restoration?

Ever wonder why we're not the Capitol Hill Preservation Society? Here's an example of the difference. When neighbors around 11th Street, SE, banded together years ago to oppose a freeway that would have demolished everything in its path and split the Hill in two, saving Philadelphia Row's 1860's houses was only part of the point. They were fighting to maintain the fabric of their community as well.

The restoration movement first came to Capitol Hill after World War II, according to Ruth Ann

Overbeck's excellent history (posted at [www.capitolhillhistory.org](http://www.capitolhillhistory.org)), when declining Navy Yard employment combined with other factors to produce a churn in the local population. New residents—a diverse mix of low, middle and upper class—bought houses, fixed them up and became the civic activists of the 1970s, working to build a community.

Today, people don't move to Capitol Hill to save houses. They

move here because it is a good place to live, with trees and transportation, parks and parking, shops and schools, safe streets where they greet neighbors they know—and yes, houses in good condition that celebrate a certain period of significance in the Hill's history. CHRS works to make the entire Hill, not just the historic district, a better place to live by all of those measures. ★

## Appreciation: Frank J. Zampatori

By Beth Purcell

CHRS member Frank Zampatori passed away on April 15, 2013. Frank was the wizard of DC politics, who knew it all, and could explain all the hidden meanings in seemingly unrelated pieces of information or images. If Frank liked you, he liked you, and he was your friend forever. His friends enjoyed his telephone calls. If he missed you and left a message, you called him back quickly for a fascinating and funny conversation. But, if he did not like you, watch out. Stupid public officials were "idiots!"

He worked tirelessly to make the neighborhood safer. He was a critical thinker, tireless observer, and kept meticulous records. I first met Frank in the 1990s at a police meeting on crime problems. Frank presented detailed notes on license plate numbers and models of out-of-state cars that appeared and then disappeared. He had uncovered a stolen-car ring in the neighborhood. Frank's work also helped the FBI to make arrests in a major East Coast prescription drug ring that used Reservation 13 as a base.

Frank's other major goal was developing a real neighborhood at Reservation 13, and he was the go-to person for anything involving Reservation 13. For over 10 years he invested tremendous effort, with few results so far. He became very frustrated, but never bitter, and kept his sense of humor in spite of everything.

We have lost a great friend and the Stadium Armory neighborhood has lost a great leader.



## Capitol Hill Restoration Society (CHRS)

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[www.CHRS.org](http://www.CHRS.org)

Celebrating more than 55 years helping to preserve and protect Capitol Hill's residential character, the Society is the largest civic association on Capitol Hill, and one of the largest in the District of Columbia. From the beginning, the Society has played a key role in maintaining the diverse, residential character of our neighborhood. With your participation, we will continue to do so for many years to come.

To start or renew a CHRS membership:

- ★ On the web at [www.CHRS.org](http://www.CHRS.org)
- ★ Call (202) 543-0425; choose option 2
- ★ Pick up a form at one of our meetings

Starting at just \$25 per year for a single membership, it's a great deal.

# April Preservation Café: The Garden As an Extension of the Home

By Greg Holeyman

Gary Hallewell, owner of Garden Arts, discussed his work on Capitol Hill gardens at the April Preservation Café. A Hill resident, Mr. Hallewell has worked as a garden design specialist in the District since 1992.

Gary's presentation focused on several completed projects and his approach to landscape design, where he emphasizes the garden as an extension of the indoor living space. His designs focus on making the garden a pleasurable space to experience and on improving the transition from the interior of the house to the exterior. Gary's goal with each project is to make the outdoor living space the favorite room of the house.

As those of us who live here know, most Capitol Hill backyards are accessed by straight, narrow stairs leading from the rear of the house down to the level of the garden. One reason for this is to maximize open space in the rear yard. Gary believes the stairs should be part of the garden experience. He designs stairs with large landings and low walls to provide opportunities for seating and contemplation within the open yard. Gary usually builds up the existing grade with paved surfaces supported with the appropriate layers of gravel and sand below. Usually, low walls

are built at the party property lines to accommodate the extra height in grade. These walls provide support for new fences made of materials that complement the new garden.

Running water is another element woven into Gary's designs, and he incorporates fountains wherever possible. Gary maximizes rain harvesting by sloping hardscaped areas to planting areas, but is not a fan of rain barrels, which he says tend to fill up and overflow during major storms.

Gary also discussed his unique infrastructure that provides water deep into the ground where plant roots are located. Near the plant, Gary installs a 3–4 foot long PVC pipe into the soil, covering the top with a stone. Pouring water into the pipe daily will direct the fluids where they are needed most and will help the plants flower longer than usual during DC's long, hot summers.

Gary is also able to build or rebuild porches and decks as part of the garden design. He showed a project with a new steel porch maximizing the open space of a tight rear yard. Gary's designs also incorporate storage sheds and garage door structures.

Gary Hallewell can be reached at (202) 213-5002 or via e-mail at [gary@hallewell.com](mailto:gary@hallewell.com). ★

## Solar Panels at May Preservation Café

The next Preservation Café will be "Solar Panels" on Wednesday, May 15, 6:30–7:15 p.m. at Ebenezers Coffee House (downstairs), 2nd and F St. NE. Jeff Thomas of Solar Energy World LLC will discuss the benefits and logistics of installing solar panels. Frances McMillen of the District's Historic Preservation Office will be on hand to address considerations within the historic district. The event is free and handicapped accessible, and the public is encouraged to attend. No reservations required.



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# Zoning Briefs

By Gary Peterson

**T**he CHRS Zoning Committee, at meetings on April 3 and 11, considered six cases. The Committee supported all the following cases:

**Z.C. Case #12-18.** The block bounded by the 600 block of H Street, NE, I Street, NE, 6th Street, NE, and 7th Street, NE. It includes Murray's Steaks and storage warehouse properties. This case involves a planned unit development (PUD) application by USL WDC H Street, LLC and H Street Self Storage, LLC (collectively, the "Applicant"). The Applicant is requesting approval of a PUD and a related rezoning for portions of the property. The Site contains approximately 101,110 square feet of land area and is currently split zoned C-2-B and R-4 with the C-2-B portion being located within the H Street Overlay District. The Applicant is requesting a rezoning of portions of the Site, including a request to rezone the northern R-4 portion of the Site fronting I Street to R-5-B and two smaller areas of R-4 zoned land fronting on 6th and 7th Streets to HS/C-2-B.

The Applicant proposes the construction of a mixed-use development having a combined gross floor area of approximately 490,000 square feet, with approximately 416,000 square feet being devoted to residential use (approximately 450 units) and approximately 74,000 square feet devoted to retail use. The maximum height of the building will be 90 feet and steps down in height on I Street and 7th Street. The project will include approximately 442 parking spaces, with access to the parking garage being both from 6th Street and from the alley access off 7th Street. Loading for the project will be

dedicated as part of the alley closing process off 6th Street as well as from the existing alley off 7th Street. Both ANC6A and 6C support the project. The Committee voted to support the project with the recommendation that the buildings fronting on I Street more reflect the Victorian architecture on the Street.

**BZA Case #18531.** The Heritage Foundation is requesting area variance and special exceptions to allow a commercial and residential project with below-grade parking in the CAP/CHC/C-2-A and CAP/R-4 Districts at 208, 214 and 236 Massachusetts Avenue, NE, and 426-430 3rd Street, NE. The applicant proposes to convert 208 Massachusetts Avenue from mixed office and intern housing to all office, and 236 Massachusetts from office to all intern housing except for the retail on the first floor. 428 3rd Street will be razed and six new three-story, single-family row houses will be built. Finally, a 3.5-level, 105-space underground parking garage will be built behind 314 Massachusetts Avenue and below the new row houses. The row houses will have dedicated parking spaces in the garage. The Committee found the proposal to be very thoughtful and well designed and voted unanimously to support the project.

**BZA Case #18536.** The owner seeks permission to add a second story to an existing one-story portion at the rear of her residence at 1610 E Street, SE. The property is zoned R-4. Since the house is already non-conforming, she needs a special exception to extend the non-conformity up. The Committee found the addition to have minor impact on neighboring properties and voted unanimously to support the application.

**BZA Case #18542.** This case involves the application for a special exception to allow a rear addition to an existing one-family row dwelling not meeting the lot occupancy, rear yard, and nonconforming structure requirements in the R-4 zone at 452 New Jersey Avenue, SE. The home is currently nonconforming and needs a special exception to increase the lot occupancy from 62% to 70% and to reduce the rear yard depth from 18.5 feet to 14 feet. The addition will not go back further than the rear building line of adjacent structures. The owner provided letters of support from his neighbors and the Committee voted unanimously to support the application.

**BZA Case #18544.** Penn Avenue Partnership LLC requests a special exception for the roof structure, a variance from the off-street parking provisions, a variance from the size of parking space requirements, and a variance from the loading requirements under section 2201, to allow a residential project in the C-2-A zone at 1550 Pennsylvania Avenue, SE. This property is irregularly shaped and has frontage along Pennsylvania Avenue, SE, Barney Circle, and Kentucky Avenue, SE. The applicant proposes to build a structure that varies in height from three to five stories. The building will have 81 units and requires 41 parking spaces and the applicant proposes 30. In order to provide for the additional 11 spaces the applicant would have to make a second level of parking, but the configuration makes this nearly impossible and very expensive. The committee was persuaded that the applicant complied with the test for the variance and voted unanimously to support both the variance and special exceptions.

**BZA Case #18545.** The applicant proposes to construct a two-story addition to the rear of his existing semi-detached row house at 650 C Street, NE. The addition increases the lot occupancy of 61% to 68% and maintains a non-conforming side yard. The applicant submitted letters of support from the neighbors except from the vacant house immediately to the east. The applicant sent a certified letter to the owner on January 31, and has heard no comment. This owner is known for her vacant houses on Capitol Hill and no answer is expected. The Committee voted unanimously to support the application.

For more information, please contact Gary Peterson at [pgarylaw@aol.com](mailto:pgarylaw@aol.com) or at (202) 352-0098. ★

## Second Public Meeting on May 16 for Pedestrian Safety Study

Thursday, May 16, 2013 | 6:30–8:30 pm

Payne Elementary School, 1445 C Street, SE

Members of the public are invited to the second in a series of public meetings for the Pennsylvania Avenue, SE, and Potomac Avenue, SE, Intersection Pedestrian Safety Study on May 16, 2013. The purpose of the meeting, hosted by the District Department of Transportation (DDOT), is to provide an opportunity for the public to learn more about and provide comments on proposed design concepts for improving pedestrian safety.

The federally-required transportation planning study focuses on pedestrian safety for residents and multi-modal transit users at this major, highly-traveled intersection, and is one of a number of transportation, environmental, economic, community, and recreation projects included in the larger Anacostia Waterfront Initiative (AWI) Program.

For more information, to follow the progress of the study, or to join the email distribution list for the project, please visit [www.anacostiawaterfront.org/Penn-Potomac](http://www.anacostiawaterfront.org/Penn-Potomac) or send an email to [pennpotomac@prrbiz.com](mailto:pennpotomac@prrbiz.com). To be added to the project or AWI community contact list or to ask questions, e-mail [ddot.awi@dc.gov](mailto:ddot.awi@dc.gov) or call (202) 741-8528.

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## June Membership Forum: Do We Need the Height Act?

On April 11, the National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC) and the DC Office of Planning announced a study of the impacts of changes to the federal Height of Buildings Act of 1910. The study follows Congressman Darrel Issa's July 19, 2012 hearing on "Changes to the Height Act: Shaping Washington, DC for the Future." The schedule is aggressive, with outreach in May, hearings in June and a draft recommendation in September 2013. NCPC will conduct information outreach sessions on

May 13 at Petworth Library and May 22 at NCPC's offices. Additional information will be provided at: [www.ncpc.gov/heightstudy](http://www.ncpc.gov/heightstudy).

CHRS will dedicate its Summer Members Forum to The Height Act. Our speaker will be Laura Richards, an attorney who testified before Congressman Issa's Committee last summer in support of the Height Act. Her testimony emphasized that the Height Act of 1910 plays a positive, powerful role in shaping the cityscape and the experience of living in the District.

This event is open to the public. A short CHRS members' meeting will precede the program. Elections results for the CHRS Board of Directors will be announced.

### CHRS Membership Forum

June 19, 2013, 7–9 pm; doors open at 6:30 pm

Hill Center at Old Naval Hospital  
921 Pennsylvania Ave, SE

# Beekeeping on Capitol Hill

By Lisa Dale Jones

**Q** *What do the South Lawn of the White House, the roof of the Fairmont Hotel by Rock Creek, and a handful of homes and businesses on Capitol Hill have in common?*

**A** *They are home to beehives, whose fuzzy, winged residents help sustain the environment by pollinating flowers and plants in the District, and who reward their human caretakers by providing delicious local honey.*

Honeybees are not able to live for long in the wild, so beekeepers are absolutely necessary to maintain the bee population. Here on Capitol Hill there are up to a dozen beekeepers, and they're passionate about their honeybees and the hives they maintain for them.

One beekeeper is Karl Moeller, who maintains a hive inside his home just blocks from Eastern Market. Karl's father, in Massachusetts, is also a beekeeper, so Karl grew up surrounded by bees, and uses some equipment that used to be his father's. He keeps his hive on an enclosed porch on the second floor of his rowhouse. The bees enter through a small slit cut through the wall of the porch with an enclosed "runway" leading to the bottom level of the hive.

Although beekeeping is legal in the District, (its status was confirmed in Mayor Gray's Sustainable DC Act of 2012), some neighbors may be concerned about thousands of bees living nearby. But, as Karl points out, honeybees are not aggressive, and will only sting if they are in danger, such as trapped in clothing or stepped on with bare feet. Unlike wasps or yellow jackets, which can sting many times and fly away, honeybees die when they sting, so they rarely resort to that.

## How a Hive is Constructed

Honeybee hives consist of a stack of wooden boxes called supers. Inside each super is a series of ten frames. They hang vertically inside the super similar to hanging files in a drawer. New frames each start with a sheet of wax on which are the designs of a honeycomb in order to give the bees a pattern to work from. The tops and bottoms of the supers are open so the bees can move up and down within the hive.

The bees produce the honey as food for themselves and the larvae being taken care of in the hive, but they make far more than they need in any one season. Since beekeepers like to keep larvae separate from honey, they have to keep the queen bee from laying eggs in certain parts of the hive structure. The queen likes to be as high as possible in the hive, and is larger than the rest of the bees, so the beekeeper will place a screen called a "queen excluder" between the lower "brood nest" and the upper honey supers. The screen allows the smaller bees through to deposit honey, but keeps out the queen and her larvae.

During the spring and summer, when the bees are busier and their numbers multiply, the beekeepers need to add many more supers to make enough room, making the hive a lot taller. During the winter the hive may be home to 10–15,000 bees, but during the summer it can house 80,000.

## Preparing the Hive for the Season

On a recent Saturday morning, Karl Moeller prepared his hive for the spring and summer. After donning protective headgear he fired up a handheld smoker to calm the bees as he prepared to open up their hive after the winter.

"Bees can have problems surviving the winter," he said. "When it gets cold they gather themselves into a large ball inside the hive to stay warm, but if their food is on the other side of the hive they may not be able to move as a group over to get to it."

(During the summer, the hive can get very hot, so the bees will actually bring back water and fan it around the hive with their wings to cool off.)

"There are any number of problems beekeepers may find when they open their hives, including



A frame with honeybees.

IMAGE COURTESY LISA DALE JONES





**Karl Moeller examines a frame from his hive.**

moths, mites or even a new-to-the-U.S. pest called “hive beetles,” Moeller explained. “A few of these pests in a hive are normal and the bees generally police their own property, but pests can quickly overwhelm a weak hive and destroy the entire colony.”

But today, Karl’s hive seems to be doing well. Their numbers seem low to him, but he thinks that could just be the cold spring DC has had. He removes the queen excluder and looks to see if there’s enough winter honey left to get the bees through the next few weeks, and to see if the queen is laying eggs. He explains that it’s not really worth “spinning” a frame for honey unless it’s about 80% full, so most of these frames go back into the hive to provide food for the bees. He works his way through the frames, checking several of them individually. The bees are all over the frames as he checks, but they don’t seem disturbed. This is partly their nature, and partly because of the

smoke Karl puffs on the occasional bee he sees sending an alarm to her hive-mates. If they’re in his way, he clears them off with a soft brush.

“Some beekeepers make sure they see their queen,” he said. “I don’t bother, if I see larvae and it’s clear she’s in there. I probably haven’t seen her in a year.”

The purpose of opening the hive is to check for larvae (a sign the queen is healthy), to make sure pests are under control, to expand the queen’s laying area and make more room for the massive amount of honey the bees will start collecting now that the flowers are in

bloom. Today Karl is also replacing some of the old frames his father handed down to him with clean, new frames, as well as leaving in some older ones that already contain honey. If the queen ever decides the hive is too full, she will prepare the colony of bees to leave, and no beekeeper wants that to happen, hence the importance of adding the extra space.

An hour and a half later, once all the existing and additional supers are stocked with frames and the queen excluder is in place, (high up for plenty of room), the hive is ready for the explosion of bees that will happen in the spring.

### **Honey!**

The bees go crazy starting in the spring when the flowers and trees bloom. They love Tulip Poplar, Black Locust, and Linden trees. Foraging bees leave the hive to collect both pollen and nectar. Pollen is fed to the young and is food for the bees, as is honey—a product of nectar.

### **If you see a swarm of bees, don’t try to kill them!**

Call (202) 255-4318, or e-mail [dcbees@dcbeekeepers.org](mailto:dcbees@dcbeekeepers.org) and write “Swarm” in the subject line. Many of DC’s beekeepers, including Karl and Toni, are on the emergency list, and will show up to gather swarmed bees into a hive where they can be protected. With all the problems facing the bee population, every bee colony needs to be preserved.

For more information on plants to grow for pollinators, including bees, please visit: [www.pollinator.org/guides.htm](http://www.pollinator.org/guides.htm).

They have a highly developed communication system and will tell the other bees in the hive exactly where the best foraging spots are. Bees bring pollen back to the hive in pockets on their hind legs, while nectar is collected in a special stomach. Nectar needs to be processed before packing into the cells as honey. To do this, they pass the nectar back and forth between each other to dehydrate it down to about 17% humidity. Then, it’s stored in a cell and capped off with a wax lid. Because honey is so dry, no bacteria can form in it, making honey especially healthy to eat.

At various points in the season, a beekeeper can take out any frames that are at least 80% filled, (making sure to leave plenty of honey for the bees to eat), and “spin” them.

First, the thin beeswax lid is removed from the cells and the frame put into a centrifuge. (A number of beekeepers may share one.) The spinning motion causes the honey to fly out and flow down the inside walls of the centrifuge, where it can be collected in containers. After it

*Continued on page 9*

House #2 held five apartments and is now an elegant and spacious dwelling. House #7 contained two multi-floor apartments. House #4 was a boarding house for soldiers in the mid-1940s. This area offers a variety of housing options that include apartment buildings and flats, but single-family homes predominate.

### Sponsors

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**Myth #2: The area near Congress is all offices.** While the streets bordering the Congressional enclave do host many prominent lobbying organizations, the area is primarily residential, composed of homes built between the 1860s and early 1900s. Neighbors have their choice of three large parks (Folger, Providence and Garfield) and three elementary schools (Capitol Hill Day School, #11 on the tour, St. Peter's, and Brent) making it an ideal location for families. Indeed, two of the houses on the tour have children living in them. The Capitol South Metro stop at First and C, SE, guarantees convenient transportation. The Office of Planning is considering measures to increase businesses in residential dwellings, but this area is proof that a residential majority keeps the neighborhood vibrant day as well as night.

**Myth #3: Only large houses are interesting.** Visitors enjoy touring rambling three-story homes, and

Houses #2, #6, #7 and #13 will not disappoint. But gems such as #3, a fully remodeled one-bedroom alley dwelling, and the 15-foot wide #9, a Duddington Place house, should not be overlooked. The alley dwelling exudes a lofty feeling thanks to a high ceiling, large windows and second story placement. The Duddington house achieves its airy atmosphere via an open floor plan with French doors leading to a private garden. The remodeled kitchen economizes space with efficient cabinets, hidden kick-plate drawers and a unique slide-out dog bowl shelf. Every home on the tour features creative touches tailored to compact Hill living, but these are particularly unique.

### Easily Walkable

This year's tour route is so compact that it does not require a bus service. Most houses are within one block of each other or on the same block. The 1.2-mile walk is punctuated regularly with public benches that afford rest at many points, and the tea at the Legion Hall will offer relaxation after a satisfying tour.

### 2013 Capitol Hill House and Garden Tour Addresses

1. 209 C Street, SE
2. 127 C Street, SE
3. 124 Rumsey Court, SE
4. 138 E Street, SE
5. 126 E Street, SE
6. 101 E Street, SE
7. 518 First Street, SE
8. 101 Duddington Place, SE
9. 122 Duddington Place, SE
10. 521 Second Street, SE
11. 210 South Carolina Avenue, SE  
Capitol Hill Day School
12. 226 South Carolina Avenue, SE
13. 612 Third Street, SE

Refreshments: American Legion  
Post 8, 224 D Street, SE

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## House Tour Volunteers Needed!

The Capitol Hill House and Garden Tour is a "perennially" popular and well-known event, and it relies on hundreds of volunteers to make it a success. Every year friends, neighbors and family members pitch in to help out in a variety of ways. Giving as little as an hour or two makes a big difference. Our current needs are:

**Docents**—To welcome and assist visitors to historic houses on May 11–12. Each shift is 2 or 2 ½ hours. Bring a friend and make an afternoon of it!

**Drivers**—To deliver balloons, boxes and other items from now through May 12.

**Tea/Party Staff**—To assist with setup, hospitality, and wrap-up on May 11–12 or June 2.

**Baking**—For the Eastern Market ticket booth and the tea at the American Legion Hall. Feel free to drop off something sweet for our tour visitors at either location on May 11 or May 12.

**General Assistance**—Errands, follow-up calls, or help as needed.

If you have an hour or two to spare to help support preservation and restoration, contact Michelle Carroll at pilliodmp@aol.com.



# Beuchert's Saloon, 623 Pennsylvania Avenue SE

By Paul Cromwell

A new/old saloon has opened on Pennsylvania Avenue, SE, with a small bit of help from CHRS. A year ago, the new proprietors of a yet-to-be named eating establishment contacted CHRS to ask about the history of the building at 623 Pennsylvania. CHRS was able to provide some information about the property that ended up providing the name.

What CHRS found is that John Ignatius Beuchert purchased the property in 1878. There was an existing frame building that he moved a few blocks further east, and then he constructed the existing brick building as a store with an estimated cost of \$2,500. He and his successors operated Beuchert's Saloon here until 1934. During Prohibition there was a speakeasy hidden in back.

Following their review of the property's history, the three business

partners settled on the name of "Beuchert's Saloon" and provided it with early twentieth century décor. After the first interview appeared in the press, a great-grandson of John Ignatius Beuchert contacted the owners through LinkedIn and asked if it was true that his ancestor's establishment was being re-opened. A wonderful round of "getting-to-know-you" ensued between the partners and the family, including a mini family reunion in the Saloon. They are still five or six generations strong in DC, and have been extremely supportive of the establishment and are proud that the partners are paying homage to their long-gone patriarch. The Saloon provides a perfect blend of DC history and the food and beverage industry history.

With the opening of Beuchert's, CHRS was able to confirm that the



John Ignatius Beuchert.

sizeable anonymous donation that it had received almost a year ago had indeed come from the proprietors of 623 Pennsylvania Avenue.

For hours and further details, including old Beuchert family photographs, go to the web site [www.beuchertssaloon.com](http://www.beuchertssaloon.com). ★

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## Beekeeping, continued from page 7

settles, the honey can be poured into jars and either given away to friends and neighbors, or sold. Karl's hive produced over 70 lbs of honey last year, and he won first prize in the dark honey category at the 2012 DC State Fair.

### What You Can Do to Help Bees

Karl's bees are beginning their fourth season, but he has seen the stress on his hive that we have all read about in the paper. "They're a fragile creature, and they're fighting off any number of threats to their existence," Karl said. "There's so much we don't know about what exactly is weakening them, but this winter beekeepers around the world saw

massive losses and it's getting worse each year."

Toni Burnham, an expert beekeeper also on the Hill, points out that a collection of maladies collectively known as "Colony Collapse Disorder" is affecting bees, and appears to be related to single-crop agriculture, pesticides, lack of genetic diversity, climate change and other factors. But she adds, "hobbyist beekeepers are able to shield their bees from many of these factors." Toni says it helps if residents avoid the use of mosquito control sprays, which not only kill mosquitoes, but also affect other beneficial insects including bees. She suggests using targeted solutions like UV/CO2 traps that attract the mosquitoes only.

Another way to help bees is to plant flowers and shrubs that bloom in late summer, as there are far fewer blooms for the bees that time of year. According to Toni, honeybees love kitchen herbs, Russian sage, and sedums, and are attracted to blooms that are relatively small, and white, pink, yellow, pale blue, and lavender.

Beekeeping isn't a hobby for everyone. The initial investment in equipment can be expensive and the bees need to be well cared for. But for those willing to make the commitment, the rewards of helping maintain the urban ecosystem by caring for bees—and getting honey in return—can be extremely rewarding. ★

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# Nominees for the 2013–14 CHRS Board of Directors

The Election Committee's recommendations for nominees for the 2013-14 Board of Directors were approved by the current Board of Directors. Ballots will be sent to all CHRS members who are on the rolls as of May 1, 2013. Once distributed, ballots must be completed and returned within two weeks.

Janet Quigley has been nominated to serve a second year as the President of the Society. Four new members have been nominated: Susan Burgerman, Secretary; Patrick Crowley, Treasurer; Ben Klay, Member at Large, two years; and Undine Nash, Member at Large for a one year term. Brief biographies of the nominees are below. (Maurice Walters and Lisa Wilson are completing the first year of two-year at large terms and aren't on the ballot.)

**Janet Quigley** (President) has served on the CHRS Board since 2009 and became President in 2012. Her primary interests are historic preservation, land use and encouraging home improvement. She previously served as an Advisory Neighborhood (ANC) Commissioner, was a Stanton Park Neighborhood Association (SPNA) Land Use Committee member, and Chair of the Capitol Hill Coalition for Sensible Development. She works at the historic Washington Navy Yard and has lived on Capitol Hill since 1995.

**Monte Edwards** (First Vice President) began his professional career as an engineer and then as an attorney for Washington Gas. He is now retired and has been a member of the Eastern Market Community Advisory Committee since its inception in 1999 and served as Vice Chair, Secretary and chair of its Capital Improvements Committee. He has

served as a member of the Steering Committee and Co-Chair of the Land Use Committee of the Stanton Park Neighborhood Association. He was a member of the 2001 ANC Redistricting Task Force for Ward 6.

**Lisa Dale Jones** (Second Vice President) and her husband Gary have lived on Capitol Hill since January 2010 when they moved to DC from Boston—where they also lived in a one hundred-year-old home. She has been co-editor of the CHRS newsletter since January 2011 and has written a number of house descriptions for the House and Garden Tour brochure the last few years. Lisa has a background in journalism and for ten years was a radio producer for *The Christian Science Monitor*, winning the prestigious Gabriel Award. She now owns Speaking with Soul, a business assisting clients with their speech coaching, editing, and communications needs.

**Susan Burgerman** (Secretary) arrived on Capitol Hill in July of 2005, and has spent much of her time since then restoring the exterior and renovating the interior of a small, sadly-neglected 1890 row house. She has been a member of CHRS since moving to the Hill. Susan was born and raised in Washington and the DC metro area. She lived for many years in Los Angeles, where she developed an appreciation for the weird and idiosyncratic in residential architecture, and then in New York, where she honed her lifelong interest in local history and nineteenth century homes. Susan has a PhD in Political Science; she is currently working on an historical novel based in her Stanton Park neighborhood where she lives with her husband and three cats.

**Patrick Crowley** (Treasurer), a Hill resident since 1979, brings over 20 years experience in historic preservation to the Society from his leadership in the rescue of Historic Congressional Cemetery, which achieved National Historic Landmark status at the end of his term as Board Chairman. In addition to hands-on property management and long-term land-use planning, his background in mathematical economics assisted in the development of annual budgets, project cost analysis, endowment fund reviews, and strategic planning. Crowley's work with the Smithsonian, Veterans Affairs, and the National Park Service helped HCC earn DC's Excellence in Historic Preservation Award in 2009. His instrumental role in re-establishing Congressional Cemetery to a place of honor on the Hill earned him the CHCF Community Achievement Award in 2012 and a write-up in the National Trust's Preservation Magazine. Crowley is an energy economist specializing in federal and state natural gas pipeline litigation and actuarial depreciation accounting.

**Chuck Burger** (At Large) is a Capitol Hill real estate agent with Coldwell Banker and has served on a variety of local and District Committees, including a stint as chair of the ABC Board. He has served as a House Captain for the House and Garden Tour for a number of years. He currently serves as Vice Chair of Eastern Market Community Advisory Committee (EMCAC) and is on the board of CHAMPS and Barracks Row / Main Street.

**Drury Tallant** (At Large) is a New Orleans native. He moved to Washington in the early 1990s upon completion of a PhD at Cornell University in Urban and Regional

Planning. He quickly became involved in neighborhood issues on Capitol Hill and served for several years as co-chair of the Stanton Park Neighborhood Association Land Use Committee. He worked with CHRS on numerous projects before his previous election to the Board.

**Ben Klay** (At Large) grew up in White Plains, NY, received a bachelor's degree in history and international studies from Yale, and then served on active duty in the Marine Corps for four years. Following his active duty service, he attended the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard, from which he received a master's in public policy in 2009. Since then, he has worked at the Office of Management and Budget, where he is an analyst for national security programs. He is married to Ariana Klay, and they have been Capitol Hill residents since 2010.

**Undine Nash** (At Large) grew up in the more than 1,000-year-old City of Bremen, Germany, and

was always interested in the architectural representation of the past in this famous member of the Hanseatic League. Even though her education went in a different direction, (environmental and clinical microbiology and epidemiology), she maintained an interest in historic preservation. After immigrating to the United States she was very affected by the fire at Eastern Market and just amazed how much of an impact the citizens had in rebuilding this wonderful landmark and making it a focal point for the community. She joined a restoration advisory board for the Washington DC Navy Yard and initiated legislation to name an alley on Capitol Hill after the so-far-not-memorialized architect of Eastern Market. After experiencing so much help from both the CHRS and the DC HPO when she and husband Carl created their home from an old warehouse, she would be pleased to be able to give back and support other restoration/revival projects. ★

## Welcome CHRS Supporters

*We thank the following new members, patrons, and sponsors.*

### NEW MEMBERS

Gary Barnhart  
Marc & Kay Levinson  
Sandra Lotterman

### PATRONS

Michael Svetlik & Stacey Downey  
Michael Halebian, Jr.  
Mortimer & Frances Sellers  
Barbara & Edward Wendel

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Roger Haley &  
Mary Hannon-Haley  
Jefferson & Gabrielle Hill  
David & Marcia Morgan

### GOLD SPONSOR

Jerry & Arlene Lewis

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## New on the CHRS Website

*By Paul Cromwell*

The CHRS website now presents a link to "Bytes of History," a website belonging to Capitol Hill resident Sandy Schmidt who specializes in stories about the Washington Police Department. The site also contains links to articles by James Croggon, a Washington newspaperman from 1862 until 1894. He continued to write the occasional article until he died in 1915.

New postings include recent testimony by CHRS on proposed additions to Stuart-Hobson, changes

and additions to the Heritage Foundation site at 3rd Street and Massachusetts Avenues, NE, and proposed construction at 820 C Street, SE, and 426 11th Street, SE.

There are comments developed by the Society about "Barney Circle and the Southeast Boulevard Transportation Study" released by the DC Department of Transportation.

We also have added to the House Histories list—and if you have one, fancy or not, please send it to us for inclusion on the website.

If you missed the quarterly CHRS meeting about Permits, both presentations are available: one from DC's Historic Preservation Office and the other from the Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs.

Preservations Easements for Northeast and Southeast are now listed by address, as are the house construction permits from 1877.

And you may purchase tickets for the House and Garden Tour online! Visit [www.chrs.org](http://www.chrs.org). ★





**Capitol Hill Restoration Society**  
 420 Tenth Street, SE  
 Washington, DC 20003

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## Mark Your Calendar!

### MAY

**6** Monday, 6:30 pm  
 CHRS Historic Preservation Committee, Kirby House, 420 10th St., SE, first floor. Details: Shauna Holmes, 546-5211

**6** Monday, 7 pm  
 DC Historic Preservation Office Annual Awards for Excellence in Historic Preservation. National Academy of Science, 2101 Constitution Avenue, NW. Details: Bruce Yarnall, 442-7600.

**9** Thursday, 7:30 pm  
 CHRS Zoning Committee, Kirby House, 420 10th St., SE, first floor. Details: Gary Peterson, 547-7969.

**15** Wednesday, 6:30 pm  
 CHRS Preservation Cafe: "Solar Panels." Ebenezers Coffee House, 2nd and F Streets, NE, downstairs; Jeff Thomas of Solar Energy World LLC and Frances McMillen of the District's Historic Preservation Office will discuss the benefits, logistics and permit requirements of solar panel installation. Details: Elizabeth Nelson, 543-3512.

**16** Thursday, 6:30–8:30 pm  
 DDOT-hosted public meeting about the Pennsylvania/Potomac Avenues Intersection Study. Payne Elementary School Auditorium, 1445 C Street, SE. Details: Monica Hernandez, 671-2261.

**21** Tuesday, 6:30 pm  
 CHRS Board of Directors, Capitol Hill Townhomes, 750 6th Street, SE, second floor. Details: Janet Quigley, 543-0425.

**21–22** Tuesday, Wednesday  
 Traditional Building Conference: Windows Summit. Eastern Market's North Hall. Lectures on the repair, restoration and replacement of windows in traditional and historic buildings. Targeted to building trades; registration fee. Details: Carolyn Walsh, (718) 779-1560, [www.traditionalbuildingshow.com](http://www.traditionalbuildingshow.com).

### JUNE

**3** Monday, 6:30 pm  
 CHRS Historic Preservation Committee, Kirby House, 420 10th St., SE, first floor. Details: Shauna Holmes, 546-5211.

**13** Thursday, 7:30 pm  
 CHRS Zoning Committee, Kirby House, 420 10th Street, SE, first floor. Details: Gary Peterson, 547-7969.

**18** Tuesday, 6:30 pm  
 CHRS Board of Directors, Capitol Hill Townhomes, 750 6th Street, SE, second floor. Details: Janet Quigley, 543-0425.

**19** Wednesday, 7 pm  
 CHRS quarterly membership meeting, Hill Center, 901 Pennsylvania Avenue, SE. Challenges facing the 1910 Height Act; guest speaker, Laura Richards. Details: Janet Quigley, 543-0425.

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**56th Annual Capitol Hill House and Garden Tour**  
 Saturday, May 11 • 4–7 pm | Sunday, May 12 • 12–5 pm  
 More information and tickets available at 543-0425 or [www.chrs.org](http://www.chrs.org).