



CHRS CELEBRATING 60 YEARS OF PRESERVATION

NEWS

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April 2019

A Sneak Peek at the 2019 House and Garden Tour

By Nina Tristani

The 2019 House and Garden tour boasts 10 houses this year along with five beautiful gardens. With a footprint around the Lincoln Park area, the tour includes East Capitol Street, 11th Street, Massachusetts Avenue, Tennessee Avenue, Adolf

Cluss Street, and more. Special attention will be paid to Gessford Court SE, with a guided walking tour by historian Beth Purcell.

Each house on the tour has its own unique style. For example, 255 11th Street SE, belonging to Linda Mellgren and John Payne, challenges the reader to find pig figurines. This is the house for the Chinese Year of the Pig! The owners had the original pig figurines on their wedding cake, and those can be seen in the top shelf of the curio in the dining room. Countless others are strewn throughout the house.

The owners of 15 Gessford Court SE (where there will be a walking tour) bought their house for the sense of community. Buddy and Thy Harrison and their black Staffordshire Terrier, Chuck, live in 15 Gessford Court. They bought their house in 2016 because they liked the open feel of the alley and the attractive small house. They are part of the friendly community in Gessford Court.

At 1227 Massachusetts Avenue SE, having an outdoor living room is very

important to the owners, because their family enjoys spending a lot of time in their back yard. Their back porch is constructed from Black Locust sourced locally from West Virginia. On the porch, white ceiling fans and blue tarps feel like the sea shore, and the large Italian umbrella, in matching blue, adjusts to create shade at any time of day. Comfortable outdoor seating rounds out the experience.

The house at 132 13th Street SE offers an array of mosaics created by the owners. This house reflects the

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IMAGE COURTESY BILL KOHUTANYCZ



The outdoor spaces are just as unique as the indoors at 1227 Massachusetts Avenue SE.

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Historic Preservation Briefs

By Beth Purcell

The Historic Preservation Review Board (HPRB or the Board) considered the following cases on March 7, 2019 (February 2019 calendar). HPRB is responsible for determining if proposed changes to a building are consistent with the DC Preservation Act. A “concept review” is a preliminary determination of a building owner’s plan to alter the building, and if the concept is approved, the owner will return to the HPRB for a final review.

224 C Street, NE, HPA 19-107, concept review—adding a second story on a one-story brick garage. The applicant proposed to add a second story to an existing one-story red brick garage. (Only part of the garage width is actually open and accessible from the alley. About half the width of the garage is against the adjoining property owner’s property line, so the second story addition is entirely over the project owner’s garage.)

The total height of the garage with the addition is less than 20 feet. The new second story would be

Play Ball!

There is a new baseball team in town—the Restoration Nats! CHRS has decided to sponsor a Capitol Hill Little League team this year as part of our mission for community outreach. So this year, keep an eye out for youngsters on the Hill wearing bright yellow jerseys with the CHRS logo on the back. The *CHRS News* will have periodic updates as the season progresses. For more information, contact Angie Schmidt at akschmidtcd@gmail.com.

framed in cement panels, with wood shadow box window penetrations on the north, south, and east elevations (framing operable windows on the alley (north) elevation). The south (house-facing) elevation would have a balcony. The architect described the project as a “man cave.”

We believed that the design was simple and appropriate. While we believed that the project was compatible with the Capitol Hill Historic District, we also believed that the cladding on the east elevation of the second story will be very visible from Third Street, would be a very light color, and appear very stark over the red brick on the first

story. We suggested a color scheme for the second story which recedes and is less noticeable. At least two neighbors opposed the project as inappropriate in an alley in a historic district. The Board unanimously approved the staff report supporting the project.

This case will require zoning approval. ★

Interested in learning more about historic district designation?
Contact CHRS at caphrs@aol.com.

FIFTH ANNUAL DICK WOLF LECTURE

Dismantling the Streetcar System: What Have We Learned?

By Elizabeth Nelson

As we go to press, we are eagerly anticipating John Hillegass’s presentation at Hill Center. His lecture will focus on the planning and historical context behind dismantling the Washington DC streetcar system in favor of buses between 1956 and 1962. A report on the event will appear in the May newsletter, but

photos, the program, and powerpoint slides (which give a good summary of the presentation) will be posted to the website in early April. If you were unable to attend, you’ll want to visit chrs.org/2019-dick-wolf-memorial-lecture. Many thanks to everyone who made this event possible. ★

Capitol Hill Restoration Society (CHRS)

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To reach any of the above, please contact the Society offices at (202) 543-0425 or via e-mail: CapHRS@aol.com.

ABOUT CHRS

Capitol Hill is a special place. We promote, preserve, and enhance the character of our historic neighborhoods.

Since its founding in 1955, CHRS has worked continuously to make Capitol Hill the desirable location it has now become. Due to CHRS's efforts, Capitol Hill won designation as a historic district in 1976. Today, that legacy of standing up for the community continues with our work in planning, zoning, historic preservation, and public safety.

CHRS is a volunteer organization, made up of Hill residents who love their historic neighborhoods and want to ensure that the unique character of the Hill is around for future generations. Come join us!

To learn more or join, please visit:
www.CHRS.org

Zoning Report

By Gary Peterson

During a meeting held on February 21, 2019, the CHRS Zoning Committee considered the following cases:

BZA #19928, 918 7th Street NE. The subject property is a front porch house with a short mansard roof that matches its neighbor. The applicant proposes to remove the mansard roof and add a third floor. This will change the cornice line and the applicant needs a special exception to remove the roof and change the cornice line. The committee voted to oppose the application but stated it would support the third floor so long as it is set behind the mansard roof.

BZA #19948, 1639 Potomac Avenue SE. The applicant wishes to add a second floor to an existing 8 ft. by 8.4 ft. rear enclosed porch. The footprint of the home will not change. The applicant needs special exceptions because the house is already nonconforming in lot occupancy and rear yard depth. The applicant submitted letters of support from the adjacent neighbors and the committee voted to support the application.

Important note: The Committee meetings have changed to the 3rd Thursday of every month. Future meetings will be held on March 21, April 18, May 16, and June 20. ★

A message from the President:

We Need You!

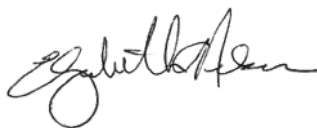
The House and Garden Tour is arguably the most important program the Society presents. It is our signature event and a primary source of funding for our many other activities.

***Docents are an essential component of the Tour.** They help check people in at each house, keep the traffic flowing, and add a layer of protection for the homeowners. So I'm hoping that many of you will be willing and able to assist. As important as the task is, it's very pleasant to sit in a lovely home and greet visitors—many of whom will be old friends you haven't seen in ages. It's also a grand opportunity to make new friends. And you and your fellow docents will be invited to the President's Party after the event as a "thank you."*

We'll be recruiting up to the day of the Tour to ensure we have complete coverage and to fill in any last-minute cancellations, so it's never too late to offer to help.

There are three shifts: one on Saturday, May 11 (4–7 pm); and two on Sunday, May 12 (1–3 pm and 3–5 pm). Volunteers should arrive at least 15 minutes early in order to become familiarized with the house.

Please contact me at elizabeth_knits@yahoo.com or (202) 329-7864 to sign up—we'll be grateful to have you!



The 2019 Capitol Hill Home Photo Contest

By Elizabeth Nelson

The Capitol Hill Restoration Society is delighted to announce the winners of the photo contest celebrating the 62nd Anniversary of our Mother's Day House and Garden Tour. We challenged members, friends and neighbors to show us, with an exterior shot, what they think "makes a home a Capitol Hill Home."

The submissions ranged from elegant to quirky, many taken

from unusual angles or of hidden views. All four seasons were well documented and one quick-thinking photographer snared a full rainbow. We even received a shot of the *antithesis* of the Capitol Hill ideal.

In the end, we couldn't settle on just one winner—we chose three. Each winner will receive a pair of tickets to the upcoming Tour, May 11 & 12, 2019.

Thank You, CHRS Supporters!

CONTRIBUTOR

Grace & Lawrence Monaco



First Place: *Rainbow*

Christine Romero submitted this striking image of the north side of the 1500 block E Street SE.



Second Place: 224 12th Street SE.

Ben Schaibly's photo (left, top) is of the front entryway to his home, which he feels "privileged to have owned for a few decades." Ben's garden is included in this year's house tour.

Third Place: Iron Stoop

Allison Atherton (left, middle) chose to highlight the intricate ironwork that distinguishes so many Capitol Hill homes.

Honorable Mentions:

Brickwork!, Patrick Crowley's shot of the turret at 21 7th Street SE (bottom, left).

I Have a Plan, Robert Weinstein's aerial view of the backyard at 812 A Street SE (bottom, right).



These and other images taken by the "runners-up" (Rindy O'Brien, Don & Laura Whittaker, Peter Robinson, Stephanie Butto, Kim Hoagland, and Eric Battino) are available on our website at chrs.org/2019-photo-contest-winners. For more information on the House Tour, visit chrs.org/house-and-garden-tour.

Many thanks to the *Hill Rag* for co-sponsoring the competition. And thanks to each and every person who submitted an entry; it has been a great pleasure to view them all. ★



62nd Annual

HOUSE & GARDEN TOUR

May 11-12, 2019 • Mother's Day Weekend

INDIVIDUAL TICKET ORDER AND DONATIONS FORM

Tax-Deductible Contributions

- ☐ **Benefactor** (\$1,000, 8 complimentary tickets, \$760 deductible)
- ☐ **Patron** (\$500, 4 complimentary tickets, \$380 deductible)
- ☐ **Sponsor** (\$250, 2 complimentary tickets, \$190 deductible)
- ☐ **Contributor** (\$100, completely deductible)
- ☐ **Supporter** (\$50, completely deductible)

Donations received by April 5 will be listed in the Tour brochure.

My / our name(s) should be listed as follows:

Tour Tickets

_____ Member discount: \$30 each through April 14

_____ Regular tickets: \$35 each (\$40 each on Tour weekend)

Payment Information

Sum of contribution and tickets. *Your cancelled check or credit card statement will be your receipt.*

- ☐ Enclosed is my check for \$ _____ payable to CHRS, Inc.
- ☐ Please bill my credit card \$ _____
 - ☐ Mastercard ☐ Visa
 - ☐ Discover ☐ AMEX

Name on card: _____

Card #:

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3 or 4-digit CVV:

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Expiration Date:

M	M	Y	Y
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Signature: _____

Ticket Delivery Method

- ☐ Mail tickets (order must be received by April 30) to:
- ☐ Hold tickets for pickup (tour days) at:

Corner Store Arts
900 South Carolina Avenue SE

Contact Information for Billing Questions

E-mail address or phone: _____ REQUIRED

TICKETS ON SALE APRIL 20 AT:

Berkshire Hathaway Eastern Market
Coldwell Banker Capitol Hill
Groovy DC Cards & Gifts
Hill's Kitchen
Labyrinth Games & Puzzles

Tickets may be purchased at any
stop on Tour during Tour hours;
cash or check only.

Purchase online anytime at:
www.chrs.org

House Tour, *continued from cover*

passions of archivist Fynnette Eaton and historian Jim Miller, who made it a celebration of art. After moving into this 1907 house in 1988, Jim created the many mosaics seen throughout the home.

Keep in mind that CHRS members can take advantage of the \$30 discount ticket price until April 14, 2019; after that time the cost is \$35 and if purchased on the day of the tour \$40.

We are still looking for volunteers to serve as house docents (see box on page 3) so let us know if you can contribute your time. For more information, please contact CHRS president Elizabeth Nelson at elizabeth_knits@yahoo.com. ★

The CHRS House & Garden Tour would not be possible without the support of our generous sponsors:

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HOUSE IMAGES COURTESY BILL KOHUTANVYZ



IMAGE COURTESY BEN SCHABLY

Find the hidden pig figurines at 255 11th Street SE (top left). This year's House and Garden Tour also includes stops at 15 Gessford Court (top right), 132 13th Street SE (bottom left), and the garden at 224 12th Street SE (bottom right).



CHRS CELEBRATING 60 YEARS OF PRESERVATION

Capitol Hill Restoration Society
420 10th Street SE
Washington, DC 20003

Mark Your Calendar!

APRIL

1 Monday, 6:30 pm
CHRS Historic Preservation Committee.
Kirby House, 420 10th Street SE, first floor. Details: Beth Purcell, (202) 544-0178.

1 Monday, 7 pm
Village Voices: "Alice Donnigan."
Northeast Library, 330 7th Street NE.
Details: info@capitolhillvillage.org.

16 Tuesday, 6:30 pm
CHRS Board of Directors, Capitol Hill Townhomes, 750 6th Street SE, 2nd Floor board room. Details: info@chrs.org.

18 Thursday, 7:30 pm
CHRS Zoning Committee. Kirby House, 420 10th Street SE, first floor. Details: info@chrs.org.

MAY

6 Monday, 6:30 pm
CHRS Historic Preservation Committee.
Kirby House, 420 10th Street SE, first floor. Details: Beth Purcell, (202) 544-0178.

6 Monday, 7 pm
Village Voices: "The Affordable Care Act" with Michael Hash. Northeast Library, 330 7th Street NE. Details: info@capitolhillvillage.org.

11 Saturday, 4–7 pm
12 Sunday, 1–5 pm
CHRS 62nd Annual House & Garden Tour. The Tour footprint lies between 10th and 13th Streets from Constitution Avenue NE to E Street SE. Details: info@chrs.org.

11 Saturday, 5 pm
12 Sunday, 2 pm and 4 pm
Gessford Court Walking Tour. Guided, outdoor, mini-tours of Gessford Court SE, free and open to everyone. Details: info@chrs.org.

16 Thursday, 7:30 pm
CHRS Zoning Committee. Kirby House, 420 10th Street SE, first floor. Details: info@chrs.org.

21 Tuesday, 6:30 pm
CHRS Board of Directors, Capitol Hill Townhomes, 750 6th Street SE, 2nd Floor board room. Details: info@chrs.org.

62nd Annual Capitol Hill House and Garden Tour

Mother's Day Weekend • May 11–12, 2019

More information at (202) 543-0425 or www.chrs.org