



# NEWS

www.chrs.org

April 2004

## April 13 Overbeck Lecture: Jazz Age Capitol Hill

We conclude our 2003-2004 season of the Overbeck History Lectures on Tuesday, April 13, with what promises to be a very interesting look at life on Capitol Hill during the 1920's and 30's. Hill native and longtime journalist Tom Kelly, who is currently writing his memoirs, will describe sights, sounds and characters from his childhood here in the Jazz Age and the Great Depression. Don't miss this opportunity to hear an excellent writer and raconteur recalling our community's past.

The event is scheduled for 8:00 pm at the Naval Lodge Hall at 330 Pennsylvania Avenue, SE. As usual, admission is free but a reservation is required. Please email [OverbeckLecture@aol.com](mailto:OverbeckLecture@aol.com) or phone 202-544-1845, leaving your name, street address and phone number so you can be contacted with a confirmation and any updates.

Tom Kelly's first newspaper job was as a copy boy at the *Washington Post* in 1939. After serving in the Navy during World War II, graduating from Penn State, and reporting for two papers in Louisiana, he covered the White

## 2004 Board Election Slate

by Rob Nevitt

The slate of candidates for positions on the CHRS Board for 2004-2005 is as follows: Rob Nevitt for President, Barbara Eck and Charles McMillion to return as First and Second Vice Presidents, respectively. We are still searching for a candidate to replace Mimi Chesslin as Secretary. Lyle Schauer is standing for another term as Treasurer. Officers are elected annually, while at-large Board members serve two-year terms. The terms are staggered, with two of the four at-large positions up for re-election in a single year—Mike Canning is up for election this year, as is Tom Grahame, who is completing Shelly Rydell's uncompleted term. Gary Peterson and Diane Scott are not up for election this year. As required by the by-laws, CHRS will send out ballots in April for members to vote by mail. Write-in votes are welcomed, particularly for the position of Secretary. The results of the election will be announced at the annual meeting in June. Short biographies of the candidates appear below.

### Mike Canning, Member at Large



Mike Canning has been a Hill resident, on and off, since 1965. Now retired from 28 years in the Foreign Service, he is involved in a number of Capitol Hill activities, including writing movie reviews for the *Hill Rag*, working in a number of capacities for the Capitol Hill Arts Workshop, and volunteering for

Board Slate *continued on page 8*

House during the Truman, Eisenhower and Kennedy administrations for the old *Washington Daily News*. He later served in the federal Office for Economic Opportunity and as Director of National Affairs for the newly formed VISTA program.

From 1970 to 1986 he freelanced, and then worked part time for the *Washington Times* until 1993, when he retired at age 70. He and his wife, Marguerite, still live on Capitol Hill, where they raised their four children. ✧

# President's Column

by Rob Nevitt

Consultations, hearings, appointments, boy, do we have meetings. At our last board meeting, one committee chair said that she doubted that the membership knew how many meetings committee chairs and officers attend, representing the membership. Someone else said that if they knew, people would be harder than ever to recruit for board membership and other chores. I wonder.

There is a tedium factor involved in all this interaction, no doubt. But it also represents an amazing spectrum of concerns that engage the interests of our membership. Sometimes, you plow the same ground. Sometimes you aren't sure you are heard. However, there is always a sense of having done all you can to move things in the right direction. And, sometimes, there are rewarding results, a couple of which I would like to share with you here.

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Every month we meet with Dave Clark, Director of the Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs and his senior staff. Over the months, we have heard their problems and they have heard our complaints with a growing realization that we are all after the same results and can trust each other. DCRA has an enormous workload, limited means, arcane regulations to follow and a defensiveness that comes from dealing with public criticism. Our particular focus in these meetings has been on abandoned or nuisance properties that spoil the Capitol

Hill streetscape. It is evident from the street where such properties are, and we have reasonable expectations that an immediate change in tax status for the property would bring some change to the status quo. The law requires, however, notification of the owner. Once located, the owner has opportunities to explain him or herself, inspections are made to verify assertions, process to change the status of the property undertaken, notification of the Department of Tax and Revenue and the eventual change of tax status.

DCRA has taken a list of seventy-seven properties we have identified, inspected and moved paperwork as expeditiously as possible. We believe our persistence and the quality of the evidence we have presented has speeded up the process. The results have been nine delinquencies identified that are being prosecuted, twelve properties verified to be occupied and twenty-seven newly identified possible

abandoned properties being processed. It is worth noting that four are either in probate or sold to a new owner, which means the process starts over, adding more delays. We are following up on all these cases in subsequent meetings and identifying additional properties that appear to be abandoned.

Another meeting, the first in what will be a series of meetings, was in Councilmember Ambrose's Office with the potential developer of the large site at the Potomac Metro. If all goes as planned, the developer will take possession of the site from Boys Town and devel-



op it as a mixed retail and residential complex. Our membership voted with their contributions to the Southeast Citizens for Smart Development, which was taking legal actions against Boys Town's abuse of city codes and their misrepresentations of what their facility would represent. The result of these joint efforts is that the site has promise of what it should be, a beginning of economic renewal along Pennsylvania Avenue to Barney Circle.

There are more meetings on as diverse subjects as the Memorial Grove for 9/11 proposed for Congressional Cemetery, development of Reservation 13, Natatorium improvements, parking requirements at Medlink, protection of historic alleys, use of air rights over Union Station, planning by the Architect of the Capitol and WMATA revenue requirements that might include increased advertising in the Metro system, which I wrote about last month. I had a very nice letter from a long-time member supporting our opposition to making billboards out of Metro cars and buses, video ads in the cars and banners in stations.

Oh, yes, then there is the House Tour! Please, let us know how you can help. ✧

## Capitol Hill Restoration Society (CHRS)

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

*President* . . . . . Robert Nevitt  
*First Vice President* . . . . Barbara Eck  
*Second Vice President* . . . . Charles McMillion  
*Treasurer* . . . . . Lyle Schauer  
*Secretary* . . . . . Mimi Chesslin  
*At Large* . . . . . Mike Canning  
*At Large* . . . . . Gary Peterson  
*At Large* . . . . . Tom Grahame  
*At Large* . . . . . Diane P. Scott  
*Immediate Past President* . . . Brian R. Furness

### COMMITTEE CHAIRS:

Mike Canning, *Budget*  
Dick Wolf, *City Planning*  
Bernadette McMahon, *Communications*  
Brian R. Furness, *Community Development*  
Gene Smith, *Environment*  
Nancy Metzger, *Historic Preservation*  
Charles McMillion, *Membership*  
Gary Peterson, *Zoning*  
Aimee Occhetti, *House Tour*

### NEWS:

Larry Janezich and Jane Ruyle, *Editors*  
Roxanne Walker, *Design and layout*

### WEBSITE:

Scott Morton, *Webmaster*

To contact any of the above, please contact the Society offices by calling 202/543-0425 or sending email to [CapHRS@aol.com](mailto:CapHRS@aol.com).  
[www.chrs.org](http://www.chrs.org)

Founded almost 50 years ago to preserve and protect Capitol Hill's residential character, the Society is now the largest civic association on Capitol Hill, and one of the largest in the entire District of Columbia. From the beginning, the Society has played a key role in maintaining the diverse, residential character of our neighborhood.

# A Sneak Preview of the Annual House and Garden Tour...

by Aimee Occhetti

We are looking forward to the House Tour on May 8 and 9. We have an exciting agenda! In addition to the eight houses, we have some "special" locations for you to visit. Here is a sneak preview of a few of those locations...



Capitol Hill Day School celebrates its 35th anniversary this year and opens its doors with gratitude to the community that has been such a vibrant foundation for the school. The school makes creative use of every inch of space the century-old building has to offer. Each floor is organized around a central lobby or gathering space that emphasizes the school's philosophy that students and teachers comprise a community of learners that is unified and diverse.

Since 1998, the **Shakespeare Theatre** has been a proud resident of Capitol Hill's "Barracks Row," where it restored two buildings to house its administrative offices, rehearsal and production facilities, education programs and the Academy for Classical Acting. The Theatre's costume shop, located at 507 8th Street, SE, will be open on the tour.



Tickets will go on sale April 17 at Eastern Market. We still need volunteers and House Captains for the tour. Please contact Kit Read at 202-399-0440 to volunteer. Remember—volunteers will get a \$15 ticket! ✨

## Start or Renew Your CHRS Membership!

On the Web at [www.CHRS.org](http://www.CHRS.org), or call us at 202-543-0425 and choose option 2, or get a form at one of our many meetings.



Starting at just \$25/year for a single membership it's a great deal and the best way to help all your neighbors to maintain and improve our fantastic Capitol Hill Community

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# Lead in our Water? Some Resources

by Gene Smith

There have been hundreds of articles written about our water in DC and possible lead contamination since this controversy reached critical mass in the last few months. Like any good controversy, there is a fair level of uncertainty about what it means to you.

We recommend the following resources as you weigh your personal situation and your options:

**Listing of known lead pipes.** Washington Post, "DC Extra" supplement, "A Ward-by-Ward Look at Water Toxicity" (Thursday, March 18, 2004). We're Ward 6. The addresses are easy to locate for your residence. A map of this information is available (as of late March 2004) at this online address: [www.washingtonpost.com/wp-srv/metro/specials/water/leadmap/](http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-srv/metro/specials/water/leadmap/).

**Questions for the DC Water and Sewer Authority (WASA).** The "lead hotline" can be reached at 202-787-2732 and by email at [wqp2003@dcwasa.com](mailto:wqp2003@dcwasa.com). Information on the "lead hotline" can help you get your water tested.

**Questions for the DC Government.** Any questions about this issue can be directed to the DC Government hotline at 202-727-1000 (you can get a "job number" when you call) or through an online query at [www.dc.gov](http://www.dc.gov).

**Questions about Ward 6 response or further assistance from Ward 6.** The office of Councilmember Sharon Ambrose can be reached at 202-724-8072. The Web site for Councilmember Ambrose can be found under "Council Members" at the DC Council Web site, [www.dccouncil.washington.dc.us](http://www.dccouncil.washington.dc.us). Her Web site has excellent information on the "Lead Replacement



*Replacement of lead service lines has begun on the east end of the historic district. As part of the work in the 200 block of 13th Street SE, the meters are being relocated to the tree boxes.*

Program" and "Lead Education Facts."

**Dialog on lead in local water.** A regular dialog on this topic by DC residents has been on-going in an online format, through [themail@dcwatch.com](mailto:themail@dcwatch.com). Send an email and ask to be added to the distribution list. Archives of past discussions are available at [www.dcwatch.com/themail](http://www.dcwatch.com/themail).

Peace of mind may be as close as the bottled water in your local grocery. Families with pregnant mothers and young children should discuss their situations with their doctors.

Note: For those without computers, each referenced resource can be accessed through your local public library or Martin Luther King Library. Librarians are generally very willing to assist with Web addresses, as long as you are patient. ✧

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## CHRS Testimony Before the Committee of the Whole of the Council of the District of Columbia

by Dick Wolf

Dick Wolf, Chair of the City Planning Committee of CHRS, testified, as he has every year, concerning the performance of the Office of Planning and the Office of Zoning. These offices constitute the support operation for the Zoning Commission. CHRS continues to advocate a timely revision of the Comprehensive Plan to remove the Office of Planning as a subsidiary component of the office of Deputy Mayor for Economic Development (a conflict-of-inter-

est); to establish a local planning commission whose mission is the development and implementation of the local elements of the Comprehensive Plan; and to reinvigorate neighborhood planning.

For the Office of Zoning we have consistently lauded the stewardship of Director Jerily Kress, supported more space for the office, advocated that they have their own legal counsel, and strongly urged that a basic overhaul of the now 46-year-old zoning regulations be supported by a \$50,000 initial study of the need for such an overhaul. ✧

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# Online DC Tree Map Provides Details for Trees on Your Block

by Gene Smith

Joyce Kilmer said it best: "I think I shall never see/A poem lovely as a tree." Do you know the tree outside your doorstep, maybe one that you care for, water, surround with seasonal plantings? Do you know the name of the tree, the condition of the tree, the value of this tree? Get ready to be dazzled by modern technology.

Courtesy of a new online database, funding from the Casey Tree Endowment, and a little investment of time in exploring a Web site, you can get all this information and more:

**Tree type.** Mine is a "linden, little leaf" (also known as "Tilia Cordata").

**Tree condition:** My linden is in "fair/poor" condition (3-4). (I agree.) The foliage on my linden is "normal," but clearly all the other indications are that my linden is not doing too well. (I didn't think so, either; but I'm not a big fan of lindens. In fact, all the lindens on my block are described as "fair/poor;" I don't think the other lindens are doing any better than my linden.)

**Tree value.** My linden's value is estimated at \$7,841. (Who would know?)

**Site information.** The site, accurately, says that there are no overhead wires, no tree grate, a permanent curb and permanent sidewalk, and describes the tree box as "potential plant." I guess I should do a better job of landscaping the tree box.

**Environmental/Economic Value.** My linden is busy, day in and day out, removing pollutants (like carbon monoxide, ozone, nitrogen oxide and sulfur dioxide) from the air. What a great deal! That's what makes it worth \$7,000 +.

For the computer literate, go to the Web site for Casey Trees Endowment Fund, [www.caseytrees.org/](http://www.caseytrees.org/). Click on the Casey Trees Tree Map (data from 8/02). Or go straight to [www.caseytrees.org/treemap.html](http://www.caseytrees.org/treemap.html), and click on the Tree Map (to the right middle of your screen, not at the top right of your screen). You can search for your tree by looking under your ward (we're Ward 6), ANC or SMD, or by Zip code. Then zoom in on your specific block by adjusting the map that appears to the right of your screen. You can orient yourself by choosing to highlight all trees (even empty tree boxes) or other points of reference (buildings – even your residence, sidewalks, alleys, parks, Metro stops, etc.).

The mapping function is not perfect. My Metro stop, Capitol South, wound up far from the corner where it belongs. I think there is at least one tree that is on the map for my block that is missing. But what a tool for making DC, including our Capitol Hill neighborhood, the City of Trees it was long ago reputed to be.

Note: No computer? Drop me a line at the CHRS offices (see masthead) and I'll get you a map of the trees on your block. ✧

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## Report of the CHRS Zoning Committee

by Gary Peterson

The CHRS Zoning Committee met at 7:30 pm on March 11, 2004 to consider seven zoning cases. The cases were in several groups; two of the cases involved constructing new garages, three cases involved small rear additions, one was the renewal of a private school use, and the last case involved the construction of a large two-flat building on top of a small commercial building. The Committee voted unanimously to support all of the cases except the last one which the Committee voted to oppose.

This case involved the application for variances from the lot occupancy requirements and the off-street parking requirements to allow the construction of a

new two-family dwelling at 601 Massachusetts Avenue, NE. The property is currently occupied by a small one-story cinder block building that is used as a drycleaners. The applicant proposes to keep the drycleaners and build the dwelling on top and behind the existing building. Under the proposal, once the construction is finished, the new building will occupy 85% of the lot. The Committee voted unanimously to oppose the area variance and to support the parking variance. No grounds were given to support the variance that would meet the test for granting a variance.

The Committee briefly discussed the proposed rezoning of Reservation 13. The Zoning Commission has yet to set a hearing date on Office of Planning's proposal. The Committee adjourned at 9:45 pm. ✧

# Picture Perfect Members' Meeting

by Charles W. McMillion

Using scores of wonderful pictures of Capitol Hill, many from the 19th Century, Gail Redmann kept us ooo-ing and aaah-ing throughout her presentation to the February 24 CHRS Members' meeting at the Natatorium. Gail is the Vice-President for the Research Library and Collections at the DC City Museum so we expected her to know her Capitol Hill history and the Museum's resources. What we didn't expect were all those clear, sharp pictures.

There were aerial photographs and detail photographs of individual homes and businesses. There were pictures of Pennsylvania and Massachusetts Avenues, East Capitol and Barrack's Row, 7th Street, NE and New Jersey Avenue, SE, Union Station and the "Old" and "New" Navy Hospitals. There were picture postcards of the Capitol and local businesses and maps, including one with the locations marked where especially famous people had lived. There was an early 1960's menu from Sherrill's. It was great fun.

Best of all, Gail clearly described the enormous DC resources available through the Museum. She then walked us through the user-friendly process of doing



8th Street, S.E. at the Navy Yard, ca. 1960. Joseph J. Jessel, Jr., Street Car Slide Collection.

neighborhood research in the Museum's library or online from home. The address is as follows:

[http://www.citymuseumdc.org/Library/Library\\_Collections\\_Overview.asp](http://www.citymuseumdc.org/Library/Library_Collections_Overview.asp)

Everyone left with renewed pride in the DC City Museum and even more reasons to bookmark it and to go again for a visit. ✧

## Historic Preservation Briefs

by Nancy Metzger

### Don't Meddle with Stop Work

**Orders** – Illegally removing a stop work order (the bright red notices that inspectors place on building projects with permit violation) will now cost owners at least \$2,000, according to new regulations. DCRA found that the old fine of \$500 was often ignored by contractors who felt they could easily

absorb the cost and ignore the regulations.

**20 Ninth Street, NE** – In December, DCRA issued a Notice of Intention to Revoke the Building Permit to the owners of 20 Ninth Street, NE for a roof replacement that became an addition. The owners of the property have requested a hearing on the matter. A date has not been set yet.

**Historic Alleys** – CHRS has sent a letter to Dan Tangherlini, Director of DC's Department of Transportation, asking for a meeting about the Historic Alley Rehabilitation Program. In July 2000 CHRS met with department representatives to discuss the unfortunate asphalt paving of Walter Houp Court. CHRS agreed to conduct a photo survey of the alleys in the historic district, focusing on paving materials and condition and DDOT agreed to formulate a policy that would deal with historic preservation issues as well as public health, safety and service issues. Since funds appear to have been committed for alley rehabilitation, it is time to find out what the policy is. Tom Grahame, at-large Board member, will be leading this effort for the Society now, taking over from Nancy Metzger. ✧

### Welcome CHRS Supporters

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

#### NEW MEMBERS

Pranav Badhwar  
Carole Hango-Hanlon  
Ryan Meyers  
Mat Portolese  
Maury Stern

#### SPONSORS

Robert Nevitt  
William Frank Reed  
James H. Skiles & Lynne  
H. Church

#### PATRONS

Farleigh H. Earhart  
John Franzen  
Tom Grahame & Jan Kern

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# Call Box Update

by Nancy Metzger

You've been hearing about the Call Box Project for a long time now but this spring you will finally be able to see a finished box. Artist Betsy Damos has sent off the materials for the Carolina Theatre Box (Lincoln Park at 11th Street) to be cast at Erie Landmark. She'll be painting the pedestal and frame when the weather permits and then, probably some time in April, the brass plaque will be mounted and Capitol Hill will have its first completed call box. Jim Simpson has agreed to underwrite the cost of this call box, augmenting the funding of \$250 from the city-wide program Art on Call, supplied through Cultural Tourism DC and the DC Council of Arts and Humanities.

Great news, right? Yes, but now we need money to translate other artists' visions of "great moments in the Capitol Hill neighborhood" into artistic icons. Since the plaques must be very durable, some type of metal is the usual choice. Costs range from \$500 to \$1300. Each call box will have a plaque affixed to the base that will include donors' names. Contributions are tax deductible.

Artist Will Fleishell is carving the final wax model for three call boxes—Wallach School at 7th and Pennsylvania Avenue, SE, Benjamin Latrobe at 8th and G Streets, SE and Anacostia Volunteer Fire Company at Eighth and I Streets, SE. Those will be cast in bronze and will be ready for installation later this spring. Stanton Development Corporation is contributing the money necessary to cast the Wallach School call box. Bill Fleishell's art work, "Fighting Fauna," is destined for the call box at 1st and D Streets, SE after it is converted into a colorful metal plaque through a process known as sublimation.

Also in the pipeline now are four other boxes that have gained preliminary approval from Art on Call: Eastern Terrace Homes at 17th and D Streets, SE; Home Theatre at 11th & C Streets, NE; Congressional Cemetery Canines at 18th & Potomac Avenues, SE; John Philip Sousa at 4th & E Streets, SE. Conceptual approval was given to two boxes on Birds of the Anacostia at 5th & A Streets, SE, and 15th and Independence Streets, SE by artist Nancy Donnelly, who is now conducting experiments on the materials she plans to use, trying to solve



moisture and technical problems.

There are many ways to become involved with this project. Check the CHRS Web site ([www.chrs.org](http://www.chrs.org)) for more information or contact Nancy Metzger, 202-546-1034; [n.metzger2@verizon.net](mailto:n.metzger2@verizon.net). ✧

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## April Preservation Café to Offer Stained Glass Care Pointers

by Nancy Metzger

Does your home have some original stained glass—but you're beginning to wonder if there might not be some loose pieces? How does one protect a stained glass window?

The April Preservation Café on Wednesday, April 21, from 6:30pm – 7:15 pm, will present "Looking through Rose Colored Windows" with Daniel Wolkoff of Adams Morgan Stained Glass and Antique Restoration.

Mr. Wolkoff will provide pointers on the care and maintenance of your stained glass, including what to

ask a potential restorer and pitfalls to avoid if your stained glass needs repair. He will also present information on the different types of stained glass found on Capitol Hill.

This is a great opportunity to bring your questions on stained glass already in your home or the possibilities of adding it. As always, this popular free forum will be held at Trattoria Alberto (top floor), 506 8th Street, SE (one block from Eastern Market Metro)—and you can stay and have a delicious dinner afterwards.

For more information please contact the CHRS offices at 202-543-0425 or [CapHRS@aol.com](mailto:CapHRS@aol.com). ✧

# CHRS Board Election Slate continued from page 1

other neighborhood organizations. He has been a member of the board of the Restoration Society since 2002, when he became Budget Committee Chair. He and his wife Judy have lived on their “favorite block” of Fifth Street, SE for more than 30 years, in a house they have renovated—judiciously—twice.

## Barbara Eck, First Vice President



Barbara Eck has served as First Vice President since 2002. She was elected to an at-large seat on the CHRS board in June 2001. A member of the Society since 1972, she has worked on the Zoning Committee, the News, many House Tour committees, the Eastern Market Task Force and served as the CHRS representative to the

EMCAC. Barbara has also dealt with ABC issues and the Old Naval Hospital. She is a speech language pathologist who is semi-retired. As First Vice President, she sets up the calendar for the year and organizes membership meetings. She and her husband Mike have three adult children.

## Tom Grahame, Member at Large



Tom Grahame has lived on Capitol Hill for 27 years, and now lives near Lincoln Park. He is an analyst at the Department of Energy as well as an activist who was a Precinct Captain for Mayor Anthony Williams’ first election. Tom has a Master’s Degree in City Planning, and has held planning positions

with the cities of Newton and Somerville, Massachusetts, and with the Boston Conservation Commission. Tom’s wife, Jan Kern, is an artist with a studio on the Hill.

## Charles McMillion, Second Vice President

Charles McMillion and his wife, Marilyn, have lived on Capitol Hill for 22 years. Charles is president of his own consulting firm, MBG Information Service, dealing with international trade and finance. He serves on the Business Advisory Panel to the District’s Chief Financial Officer. Charles is a former professor at Johns Hopkins University where he was associate director of the Public Policy Institute and former contributing editor of the Harvard Business Review. He served

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If you missed the 2003 CHRS House and Garden Tour, you missed a chance to explore these wonderful homes.

**2004 CHRS House and Garden Tour Tickets on sale April 17 at Eastern Market!**



908 Massachusetts Avenue, NE



816 East Capitol Street



The garden at 1013 E Street, SE





Congress as a staffer in both the House and Senate. He is Chairman of the Membership Committee and the Endowment Committee and has served on several others. He chaired the CHRS initiative to rationalize the building going up alongside Union Station to house the Securities and Exchange Commission in

the context of the neighboring Historic District. Charles identifies himself as an enthusiastic if unexceptional gardener.

### Rob Nevitt, President



Rob Nevitt and his wife, Audrey, moved to Capitol Hill in 1983. He has been active in Trees for Capitol Hill, the Capitol Hill Garden Club, Metropolitan Police support since the days of Beat 26, and tutoring – particularly since his retirement from the Foreign Service in 1996. Formerly, he was Chairman of the Public

Safety Committee and the House Tour Committee and has served as President for three one-year terms.

### Lyle Schauer, Treasurer



Lyle has served as Treasurer of CHRS since 1991. He has also run the Society's office and worked on the House Tour and Budget Committees. He has stepped down as Chair of the Zoning Committee, although CHRS still calls on his years of experience in zoning and his legal background to support this essential element in pro-

tecting the Capitol Hill community. (Lyle is a graduate of the University of Wisconsin Law School.) Along with his wife, Pat, a former CHRS President, Lyle has lived on the Hill since 1964. He retired from the Bureau of Labor Statistics, where he worked in the field of occupational safety and health.

### Secretary

Nominee being sought. ✧

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## Looking Back on Capitol Hill

by Nancy Metzger

*Walter D. Graham, Jr., grew up on Capitol Hill at 1206 G Street, SE and remembers when Capitol Hill was much the same—and quite different. Ida Prosky conducted this oral history interview with Mr. Graham for the Ruth Ann Overbeck Capitol Hill History Project in 2002:*

**Graham:** I lived at 1206 G Street, SE, which is 12 blocks from the Capitol. And I enjoyed walking up 12th Street to Pennsylvania Avenue in the evening. I would see the light in the Capitol would be on to show that Congress was in session . . . I went to Tyler School and my

father also went to Tyler, the elementary school that was on 11th and G Street, SE. [Note: This was a different building than the present-day Tyler.] And my grandmother—his mother—owned a store at 11th and G Street, SE. And he used to jump out the window and go get some goodies and bring it back to everybody in the class. That was Daddy for you. I can remember him telling me that. I remember growing up that I was tickled that I went to the same school. . . .

It was a mostly white neighborhood when I was growing up and on the south side of G Street in the 1200 block behind the alley were some of the colored people, resi-

dents, who lived in the alley. I can remember we would go back there and we would have ball games together; we'd play football together and baseball together. I can remember—it stands out—someone owned a tomato factory in the big building behind G Street on the 12th Street side and we used to watch 'em, not can the tomatoes, but put 'em in boxes and wrap paper around them and then send them off to the stores and different places.

*A complete transcript of this interview is on the Overbeck Project Web site, [www.capitolhillhistory.org](http://www.capitolhillhistory.org). ✧*

# Mark Your Calendar!

## April

13

Tuesday, 8:00 pm

### Overbeck Lecture

Capitol Hill during the 1920s and 1930s featuring Tom Kelly.

Naval Lodge Hall, 330

Pennsylvania Avenue, SE

17

Saturday, 9:00 am–noon

### Neighborhood Tree Planting

Refreshments, tools, and instruction will be provided. Info (202)

833-4010, [www.caseytrees.org](http://www.caseytrees.org) or

E-mail [friends@caseytrees.org](mailto:friends@caseytrees.org).

Potomac Ave, 17th & E St., SE

20

Tuesday, 6:30 pm

### CHRS Board Meeting

Kirby House, 420 10th Street, SE

21

Wednesday, 6:30 pm–7:15 pm

### Preservation Café

Looking Through Rose Colored

Windows, Featuring Daniel

Wolkoff. Pointers on the care and

maintenance of stained glass.

Trattoria Alberto, 506 8th Street, SE

## May

8–9

Saturday and Sunday

### 2004 Capitol Hill Restoration

### Society House and Garden Tour

Tour eight Capitol Hill homes as well as a few “special” locations.

## Start or Renew Your CHRS Membership

On the Web at [www.CHRS.org](http://www.CHRS.org), or call 202-543-0425, option 2



### Capitol Hill Restoration Society

420 Tenth Street, SE

Washington, DC 20003