



NEWS

www.chrs.org

November 2004

Dr. Moe Re-presents National Trust Award to CHRS at October Members' Meeting

by Beth Purcell

At the October 6, 2004 Members' Meeting, Dr. Richard Moe, President of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, re-presented to CHRS the Trustees' Award for Organizational Excellence. Lisa Burcham, the DC State Historic Preservation Officer, introduced Dr. Moe, the President of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. He said that although selecting recipients of the award is usually difficult, selecting CHRS for the award was easy. CHRS has done an extraordinary job with a small budget and an all-volunteer organization. Since 1955, CHRS has played a key role in saving some of Washington's most distinctive landmarks. Known as the "guardians of Capitol Hill," CHRS has led the effort for preservation and community revitalization in the Capitol Hill Historic District through the Preservation Café series, the Annual House and Garden Tour, planning and zoning efforts and numerous legal actions (including the residential parking permit system and the new demolition-by-neglect law).

In his remarks, Dr. Moe related that Capitol Hill is one of his favorite places because of its vibrancy and vitality. He said that CHRS cares about Capitol Hill, and does



what needs to be done to preserve that vitality, adding that Capitol Hill is what it is today because of CHRS's long, hard work over the last 50 years. Capitol Hill could very easily have turned out differently; there are many intrusive forces, including both the marketplace and federal government takings. When a community has character, he said, you know it when you see it, and Capitol Hill has character — unlike cookie-cutter subdivisions which are not built to last and will not last. He noted that historic preservation plays a key role in every city in the United States experiencing a rebirth, and that developers, architects, economists now know how to prof-

CHRS Board Displays National Historic Trust Award. L-R. Brian Furness, Lyle Schauer, Rob Nevitt, Tom Grahame, Charles McMillion, Gene Smith, Gary Peterson, Nancy Metzger, Barbara Eck, Mike Canning, Bernadette McMahon, Dick Wolf and Beth Purcell.

Photo: Gary Peterson

itably undertake historic preservation. The key, he noted, is keeping residents in the neighborhoods.

Dr. Moe responded to questions from members. A member asked about retail drug chains' practice of blocking store windows, so that no one can see out or in. Moe said that Walgreen's, Eckerd and others at

Continued on page 3

President's Column

by Rob Nevitt

The restoration of the Old Naval Hospital at 921 Pennsylvania Avenue has long been a fixture in the consciousness of Capitol Hill residents. The Friends of the Old Naval Hospital has helped keep attention focused on this deteriorating treasure. The ANC meets there as a gesture toward its potential usefulness and CHRS has tried numerous ways to move toward restoration of the building. We have met there, made the ONH part of our annual House Tour and provided money for professional evaluations of the buildings potential — including the Urban Land Institute's report that recommended civic uses for the building.

More than a year ago, the Office of Property Management of the District of Columbia issued a request for proposals for the restoration and use of the ONH. Although the building is nominally Federal Property, the District is the landlord with the OPM as its agent.

Two groups responded: The Old Naval Hospital Foundation and the Art of Living. The Foundation is a group of Capitol Hill residents who propose that the building be, at its core, the new South East Library, providing additional space for offices for community organizations (like CHRS) and meeting and reception rooms. They call it the "Hill Center at the Old Naval Hospital." The Art of Living proposes to use the space for meditation and yoga therapies, services it offers for a price. They plan apartment space for a live-in manager and a kitchen/cafe. They would make some remaining space available for community uses. More about both organizations can be found at www.artofliving.org and www.theoldnavalhospitalfoundation.org.

The point of this column is to revisit the resolution your board passed last February to support the

Old Naval Hospital Foundation proposal for the Hill Center. We still do. It arises now since we participated in the Section 106 review process that the Office of Property Management oversaw as part of choosing between the two proposals to renovate and use the ONH. This process is required by the Federal Historic Preservation Act and allows for comment by concerned parties on the impact of a proposed action on an historic resource. Nancy Metzger attended for CHRS and submitted a written report which we will post on our Website or which can be had by writing or calling the CHRS office to request a copy by mail or FAX.

In essence, the choice between the two proposals rests on use of the building and the nature of the renovations. These are intertwined. Unless the building is treated like Mount Vernon, where restoration is total and the building becomes a museum, there have to be trade-offs between utility and restoration. We accept the renovation plans of both organizations, although both do violence to pure restoration in different ways. The Art of Living plans require interior alterations to accommodate elevator shafts, restrooms and fire stairs. The ONH Foundation plans propose putting most of these elements in a structure on the west side of the building, preserving interior space in the original building for expanded community use. This proposal results in more obvious impact at the exterior of the building, although it is not an uncommon solution in similar situations, such as at the Smithsonian and the Patent Office, converted to museums.

We are a restoration society and the exterior integrity of the original building is something we value. However, over time, we have been involved in cases of additions to — and renovations of — historic buildings, where mutually acceptable compromises between preser-



vation and utility have been found. In the case of the ONH, what the board found ultimately persuasive is that the Foundation proposal devotes the building one hundred percent to community use. The South East Library, now the smallest branch in the system would be doubled in size and the remaining spaces would be totally available for community activity. The oversight of the building would remain with the community to which the building means so much. There would be no competition between public use and commercial enterprise. A possible bonus would be the availability of the Carnegie building where the library is now.

In this process there is room for changes to construction plans and we would be pleased to see the architects bend their efforts to minimizing the impact of the exterior addition, if that is a condition for accepting the ONH Foundation proposal. However, the addition is critical for a universally accessible entrance and to allow the fullest use of the historic building for library and community uses. We believe with increased conviction, that the proposal for a Hill Center at the Old Naval Hospital provides maximum benefit to the community and deserves continued CHRS and community support. ✧

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 Beth Purcell
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:

Charles Towe, *Webmaster*

To contact any of the above, please contact the Society offices by calling 202/543-0425 or sending email to CapHRS@aol.com.

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.

CHRS Member Meeting *continued from page 1*

one time tore down corner commercial buildings, and replaced them with their own buildings. Although they have agreed not to tear down buildings on the National Register, there is still no agreement on protecting buildings within a National Historic District. He affirmed that it would be better to open up these buildings. Lisa Burcham agreed, but noted that preservation law only regulates the exterior and cannot mandate that windows be unblocked. She thought that community organizations might be more effective in persuading merchants to unblock windows.

Another member asked about preserving diversity, noting that some families move out of Washington because they can sell their DC houses for a substantial amount, then move to the suburbs where they can buy a house with more land. Moe responded that mixed income neighborhoods are the most interesting, but that people often want to live with others like themselves. Capitol Hill, Shaw and other neighborhoods are diverse and hopefully will remain that way, but a market economy can change this, as is happening now in the very hot market around Logan Circle. Maintaining diversity, he said, will require special efforts by developers and the DC government — in the latter case, for example, giving a tax credit transfer for lower loan interest rates to enable low income people to buy homes.

Another member asked Dr. Moe about security. He replied that security almost inevitably trumps all other concerns. He favors re-opening Pennsylvania Avenue NW, but these are dangerous times and he is unsure how to reconcile the needs of security with the needs of the community.

Representatives of other historic districts discussed their successes and challenges. Mark Huck of Historic Mount Pleasant told mem-



CHRS President Rob Nevitt with Dr. Richard Moe, President, National Historic Preservation Trust. Photo: Norm Metzger

bers that their community organized to promote historic preservation in 1986, in response to the demolition of many historic homes. Historic Mount Pleasant publishes neighborhood guidelines, and holds workshops on home maintenance and researching houses. Recent projects include restoration of nine fire call boxes with bronze statues recalling Mount Pleasant's history, starting the Mount Pleasant Heritage Trail, and helping restore the Latin American Youth Center mural on Klinge Road. Their top priorities include penalty enforcement and discouraging demolition by neglect.

Bernard Gray of the Frederick Douglass Neighborhood Association discussed the problems facing the Anacostia Historic District, noting that except for the Frederick Douglass Home, there are few contributing structures left. Causes for this include absentee owners resulting from homeowners who left in the 1960s and kept the houses; some were rented, some left vacant. Children of the owners did not return to live in the houses and as a result, many houses were not maintained.

In other business, the members approved the budget for the 2005 fiscal year. ✧

New Developments at Capitol Hill Hospital

by Gary Peterson

As reported in the October *CHRS News*, CHRS and the Capitol Hill Group, owners of the MedLINK Hospital and Nursing Center (formerly known as Capitol Hill Hospital), have been negotiating a restrictive covenant to establish the development rights in the property. The idea of a restrictive covenant was to ensure that when the property was sold, there were limits on the type of development that could be done. Now, however, the owner is exploring developing the property in the near term and the idea of a restrictive covenant is moot.

On October 21 Nancy Metzger, Historic Preservation Committee, and Gary Peterson, Zoning, met with representatives of the MedLINK Hospital representatives (Group). At the meeting, the Group expressed its intention to develop the property along the general lines of the previous Historic Preservation Review Board (HPRB)-approved Holladay Corporation plan and discussed very preliminary architectural changes to the plan. It is anticipated that the new design would have to be approved by the HPRB. The discussion centered on making the design more sympathetic to the surrounding buildings, the number

of units to be built, and parking. Since the plans are very preliminary, no exact design or numbers were proposed.

The Group intends to do a two-phase development. Phase one will include the old 1928 hospital and the 1956 addition — basically the southern portion of the property. Parking for this phase would be included in the construction. Phase two will include the rest of the property and will proceed once the Group has found a new location for its health care activities. The Group expects to have more fully developed plans by February and CHRS will have an opportunity to review them. ✧

Moving Forward at Eastern Market

by Ellen Oppen-Weiner

In September, the Office of Property Management (OPM) finally completed the new market shed, although many months behind schedule, and at a cost of nearly \$600,000. Although it is attractive and a vast improvement over the last “temporary” market shed, several problems remain which still must be addressed. These include: flimsy downspouts which drain onto the sidewalk instead of underground which will likely cause dangerous icy conditions in freezing weather; preventing car and truck damage to the shed; unconnected water faucets meant for the farmers to wash their products as necessary; and misplaced lights on the street side of the shed instead of the building side as originally planned. When the Department of Transportation begins its streetscape improvements on Seventh Street, SE, sometime in early 2005, the sidewalks around Eastern Market will be

replaced, thus completing the first phase of the planned improvements around the Market’s exterior. Further capital improvements are planned both inside and outside the market.

Also, at long last, in August, the Office of Property Management approved a sublease between Eastern Market Venture, Inc., the Eastern Market manager, and Market Five Gallery, Inc., (Market Five) which settles the lawsuit brought against the District by Market Five.

After passage of the Eastern Market Act in 1999, Market Five sued the District in order to continue its operation under the same terms. Those terms were contrary to the purpose and content of the Eastern Market Act. The act was meant to have the entire market operate under a single management entity. The agreement settles the lawsuit and provides that Market Five will continue to operate the North Hall and sidewalk vending of the arts & crafts and flea market

under specified terms until July 31, 2006. Market Five will have the right to continue its sublease with the Eastern Market manager provided the parties can agree on continuing terms.

Under this sublease agreement, Eastern Market Venture, Inc., has responsibility for the overall operations of Eastern Market as defined in the law, and the manager is permitted to sponsor events in the north hall. The market manager is seeking input from the community regarding Eastern Market’s operations and is planning to conduct a market survey. In the meantime, the community is urged to use the suggestion box located inside the main entrance or call and speak to Stuart Smith (202-547-0038) with your ideas, suggestions or concerns.

Ellen Oppen-Weiner, served as Chair of the Eastern Market Community Advisory Committee (EMCAC) from May 1999 through September 2004. She now serves as EMCAC’s Treasurer. ✧

Preservation Café: Check with Your Chimney Sweep Before Lighting That Fire

by Nancy Metzger

If you weren't at the October Preservation Café, you missed the opportunity to ask an expert the questions about your chimney that might make your home safer. Steve Crowl of Winston's Chimney Restoration and Service noted that many Capitol Hill residents believe their fireplaces were originally wood-burning fireplaces when actually most were fitted with small stoves or stove-like inserts that burned coal. Adapting these fireplaces to wood-burning fireplaces needs to be done very carefully and by an expert because when one element of a system is changed, it has repercussions elsewhere in the system. Adaptations made years ago may not meet present-day fire safety codes.

Other points made by Crowl were:

- ✧ Be sure that the technician who inspects and cleans your chimney is certified by the Chimney Safety Institute of America (CSIA). You know a sweep is certified if he or she carries a photo identification badge with the CSIA certification number and expiration date. (Check office@csia.org for more information.)
- ✧ Flue tiles are only as good for protection as the mortar in the joints — and both the tiles and the mortar can be damaged by thermal shock that results from a chimney fire or when water is introduced during a fire, rapidly cooling the tile. (Chimney rain caps are a good thing.)
- ✧ Since Capitol Hill is a row house community, one has to be concerned about one's neighbor's chimney as well as one's own. If you put your hand on the wall



abutting a neighbor's chimney and it feels uncomfortable after 3-4 minutes, there is not enough thermal resistance. Repeated exposure at high temperatures will dry out frame supporting components and their flash point will ultimately fall below 200 degrees Fahrenheit.

- ✧ Venting is an important part of the chimney system. There must be a supply of air to keep a fire burning properly. One of the unintended consequences of well-insulated houses (air-tight windows, doors, etc.) is that there may not be enough fresh air to keep a fire burning properly. Gas appliances also need proper venting. Heating and venting systems must be properly matched to achieve the safest and most efficient systems.
- ✧ Carbon monoxide alarms should be placed outside bedrooms.
- ✧ In addition to the most important step of having your chimney system inspected by a certified sweep, it is also important to use only seasoned wood and never to burn cardboard boxes, wrapping paper, trash or Christmas

Steve Crowl of Winston's Chimney Restoration and Historic Preservation Committee Chair Nancy Metzger

Photo: Norm Metzger

trees as these can spark a chimney fire. For wood stoves, install stovepipe thermometers to help monitor flue temperatures so you can adjust burning practices as needed. ✧

Start or Renew Your CHRS Membership!

On the Web at 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.

We've Solved All Your Holiday Gift Worries!

by Charles McMillion

Relax: CHRS has the perfect gifts for everyone in your household, kids off at school and for all your neighbors, too. We can solve even your gift worries for friends and family who — perhaps through no fault of their own — are unable to live on Capitol Hill themselves.

How better to preserve good cheer throughout the year than to give everyone on your holiday list an annual membership in CHRS!? They too can read the *News* each month and be truly “in the know” about what is really happening on Capitol Hill. They will thrill at the constant vigilance and heroic battles to preserve the family-friendly character and unique urban heritage of our community. They can celebrate our Mothers’ Day House and Garden Tour, Preservation Cafés and so much more during this our 50th Anniversary Year.

Your gift of CHRS membership might spur someone to volunteer to serve on one of CHRS’ committees or many other vital community projects.

For those on your list who are already CHRS members, we have several colorful new items to help them show the world the real Capitol Hill. Our great new logo — and top national preservation award notice



Photo credit: Charles McMillion

— is now available on high quality tote bags, coffee mugs, tee shirts and decals. The tee shirts come in gray or brick-red, short sleeves or sleeveless.

For the holidays, we are offering a CHRS New Member Gift Package that includes: an Annual Household Patron Membership; 2 CHRS Coffee Mugs; 2 CHRS Tee Shirts; 2 CHRS decals; 1 CHRS Tote Bag for \$100.

For those wise CHRS members on your list, our CHRS Household Member Gift Package will be just

what they are hoping to receive. This includes two tickets to the 2005 CHRS House and Garden Tour; 2 CHRS Coffee Mugs; 2 CHRS Tee Shirts; 2 CHRS decals; 1 CHRS Tote Bag for the low price of just \$80.

You can also buy the new CHRS items and memberships separately. The great new CHRS mugs are \$6 each, tee shirts are \$12, tote bags are \$20 and decals are 50 cents each. Annual memberships are \$25 for a single resident, and household memberships are \$30 (Basic), \$60 (Patron), or \$120 (Sponsor). And, of course, there is no other gift that says “forever” like a lifetime household membership to CHRS for \$1,000.

So make your shopping list and bring it and your checkbook to the CHRS office (420 Tenth Street, SE/basement) any Saturday morning between 10:00am and noon from now until Christmas. Or come by the Preservation Café at 6:30pm. on November 17 at Trattoria Alberto where we will be happy to fill all your holiday shopping needs.

Okay, so we’re not as convenient as Amazon but that will only add to the value of your gift! ✧

Welcome CHRS Supporters

We thank the following new members, sponsors and patrons.

NEW MEMBERS

Nancy & Granville Austin
Mary K. Erler
Siobhan Hughes
Tati K. Kaupp & Stefan Prosky
Morgan Knull
Richard V. Luna
Lisa McCormack
Jeffrey A. Menzer & Eric Rosenthal
Margaret & Edmond Missiaen

Mrs. Janette L. Pepper

SPONSORS

Jeannine Jacokes & Dave Powell
Dr. & Mrs. William J. A. Marshall
Michael & Mary McGill

PATRONS

Arrow Augerot & Jeff Capizzano

Cheryl & Matthew Chalifoux

Albert & Margaret Crenshaw
Lawrence Helm & Julijana Budjevac
David & Shauna Holmes
Marc R. Nasberg & Howard R. Nelson
Mr. & Mrs. R. M. Schmidt, Jr.

Thank you!

Hill Preservation Projects Honored at Mayor's Awards Ceremony

by Nancy Metzger

Three Capitol Hill projects were honored at a ceremony of the second annual Mayor's Awards for Excellence in Historic Preservation, which was held October 29 in the Brewmaster's Castle (aka the Christian Heurich Museum). The Park Street Project, in which the Capitol Hill Restoration Society, PN Hoffman Company, Shalom Baranes Associates, other construction firms and financial donors, joined forces to restore the façade of a home owned by an elderly resident of Capitol Hill, was chosen in the category of community involvement. Long-time Capitol Hill developers, Stanton Development Corporation, received

an award for their restoration of the German-American Building on the northeast corner of Third Street and Independence Avenue. The Abdo Construction Company received an award in the category of adaptive re-use for its restoration work on the Bryan School Lofts in the 1300 block of Independence Avenue.

Readers of the CHRS *News* may recall the series of stories chronicling the saga of the Park Street Project. It started in June 2002 when a Stop Work Order was issued because of the removal of the Italianate trim and the application of vinyl siding over the original wood siding. The project stretched through to the spring of 2004 when the landscaping was installed. In between, the Park

Street Project had to contend with the unusually rainy summer of 2003, a hurricane, and a health department distracted from lead abatement certification by the Ballou mercury scare. By the end of the project, 12 construction firms contributed over \$40,000 in time, labor and materials and 13 community members donated \$2,000 to cover other expenses.

Beyond the benefit of a restored façade to both the elderly resident and the community, the project has been used to demonstrate the need for assistance programs (either tax credit or grants) to help owners with modest incomes be able to afford maintenance and restoration of their homes in historic districts.*



CHRS Volunteers Promote CHRS at October Barracks Row Fest

CHRS Board Member Dick Wolf explains the work of the CHRS and Marilyn Saks-McMillion displays CHRS promotional products featuring the new CHRS logo.

Photos: Norm Metzger



Help Wanted

Administrative Assistant (part time) to President of the Society. Work 12-15 hours per week at Society's office at 420 10th Street, SE. Work schedule can be flexible. Pay is \$11 per hour and the only other benefits are involvement in a wide range of community service matters.

We need a mature, personable, well-organized person with general office skills including computer familiarity. Members of the Society and residents of Capitol Hill preferred.

Work includes maintaining membership records of the Society, responding to telephone and email inquiries by supplying routine information and publications or by referring inquiries to the proper Board member, helping prepare for Board and Membership meetings, maintaining stock of literature and promotional materials, and assisting in preparations for the Annual House and Garden Tour. *

November 9 Overbeck Lecture: The Legendary “Boss” Shepherd

Don't miss the next Overbeck History Lecture, on Tuesday, November 9, when Capitol Hill historian Nelson Rimensnyder presents a portrait of the legendary nineteenth century territorial governor who turned Washington, DC into a modern city.

As late as 1870, Washington remained an embarrassing backwater marked by mud streets, open sewers and wandering livestock, lending credibility to the serious movement then underway to have the national capital moved to St. Louis. More than any other individual, Alexander R. Shepherd changed all that, with a massive effort to grade and pave the streets, improve the parks, and install new lighting, water and sanitation systems. But by plunging forward with this effort without the expected level of financial support from

Congress, he also left the city bankrupt and incurred the derision of partisan press lords, who dubbed him “Boss” Shepherd.

Rimensnyder contends it was grossly unfair to lump Shepherd with the likes of New York's Boss Tweed, and notes that this urban visionary also worked to change the social landscape as an outspoken supporter of women's suffrage and racial equality.

Rimensnyder has been a student of DC history and a champion of DC home rule since his high school days in Pennsylvania, where he lobbied his state legislators to approve the 23rd Amendment to the Constitution giving District residents the right to vote for President. Later, working at the Library of Congress (1970-1975) and then as director of research for the US House Committee on the

District of Columbia (1975-1992), he compiled what he describes as “the only existing comprehensive archive on the history of the complex DC-Federal relationship.” He has been intensively involved in local historic preservation efforts and has served on the boards of the Historical Society of Washington, DC and the Association of the Oldest Inhabitants of the District of Columbia.

The lecture will be held at 8:00pm at the Naval Lodge Hall at 330 Pennsylvania Avenue, SE. Admission is free, but a reservation is required due to limited seating. Please email OverbeckLecture@aol.com, or call 202-544-1845 and leave your name, street address, phone number and email address so you can receive a confirmation and any updates. ✧

Louisville: Beyond the Awards Ceremony

by Nancy Metzger

Beyond the excitement of winning the National Trust for Historic Preservation Trustees Award for Organizational Excellence, there was the opportunity to learn from the conference sessions. (CHRS paid for my attendance at the conference this year.) The difficult part for conference attendees was deciding which sessions and tours to attend.

“Growing Pains: Understanding How Organizations Grow and Develop” seemed like a good topic to explore as CHRS is celebrating its 50th year as a volunteer organization. As the workshop leader pointed out, it's hard to maintain a high level of involvement for a long period. Taking the “leap” and hiring staff also has its problems, chiefly funding issues and difficulties in the Board's

changing role. (The CHRS Board periodically visits this question.)

One of the issues that the Historic Preservation Committee wrestles with from time to time is “how important is the land – the view” in an historic district? For the most part, the historic preservation law protects buildings. The public “park” space in front of buildings is protected through the city's Parking Act; public parks are protected through public ownership. But the narrow strips of land between some Capitol Hill houses and the even smaller pass-throughs — the little “holes” in the nearly continuous line of buildings — how important are they to understanding the Capitol Hill Historic District? How valued is the glimpse into back gardens? What would we lose if they were all filled in with additions? Although the all-

morning session, “Defining Cultural Landscapes” dealt with really large-scale landscapes, there was plenty of information to ponder and distill for those of us interested in the micro-landscape.

“Not Your Grandma's Revolving Fund” offered a panel of eight preservation real estate experts who talked about the various strategies that cities and states use to help owners of historic homes maintain their buildings or to buy and renovate threatened historic buildings for resale. They shared creative strategies for leveraging funds, ways to develop good working partnerships, and pitfalls to be avoided. It was enough to make this Washington resident seriously envious of programs in other cities and states.

Since a good part of the Historic Preservation Committee's delib-

CHRS Hosts Citywide Symposium on ABC Issues

by Barbara Eck

The Society hosted a citywide symposium in September, among community association leaders and members of the Alcohol Beverage Control (ABC) Board and the chief enforcement officer. The community association participants have been working together for over a year under an umbrella group known as the Neighborhood Alliance for Balanced Growth (NABG). Most of their efforts have been directed toward educating the City Council and the ABC Board regarding the neighborhood impact of the licensing and regulation of establishments that serve alcohol, while lobbying for a strong, community voice in the formulation of legislation and regulation. Mary Weirich and Barbara Eck represent CHRS on the NABG.

During the last year the group has been successful in working with the City Council on amendments to the Alcohol Beverage Law. This was accomplished through the

pro bono assistance of neighborhood activist lawyers and many, many meetings with ABC Board members, representatives of the liquor and entertainment industry and individual Council members. These amendments require regulations for implementation.

The ABC Board invited NABG members to a meeting to review the new regulations and to hear from Maria Delaney, the chief enforcement officer. Areas discussed were 1) the impact of the regulations covering the voluntary agreement process; 2) the standing of community associations in challenges; 3) the new process for an entertainment endorsement; and 4) the Alcohol Beverage Review Administration (ABRA) enforcement programs.

Ms. Delaney discussed the policy of "one-stop enforcement." Whenever the inspectors visit an establishment whether in response to a complaint or for a routine inspection, they take any existing, voluntary, agreements with them and review any and all violations.

If the violation is under ABRA jurisdiction they issue a citation on the spot. If they note something that falls under the fire or police purview, they contact the appropriate enforcement entity. Her office conducts regular inspections and since she took over a little over a year ago, all ABC establishments have been inspected at least once, and many have been visited multiple times. Establishments with complaints are visited more frequently for follow-up. The Council has appropriated money to increase her enforcement staff. She continues to hire to fill all slots and is seeking, in particular, bilingual enforcement officers.

Participants in the symposium were buoyed by the realization that their hard work had been successful and were encouraged by the success of the meeting as well as the anticipation that this cooperation between the community and the city agencies dealing with alcohol beverage regulation would continue. ✧

Louisville *Continued from previous page*

erations involve how to mesh the historic and the contemporary, sessions that focused on exploring those design issues were intriguing. Lisa Burcham, director of DC's Historic Preservation Office, moderated a session on "Infill Architecture Issues" that showcased successes and failures from New York, Indianapolis, and Washington, DC. (Architect Ronnie McGhee of the Historic Preservation Review Board presented some Washington cases.) In another session New York architects Hugh Hardy and Samuel White presented adaptive reuse/restoration projects recently completed by their firms. Hardy's firm transformed a Gothic Revival church into 18 classrooms of the Packer Collegiate Institute by

using contemporary insertions and White's firm created new additions that changed an Upper East Side mansion into a campus of the Spence School.

The field sessions were also great. There was an introductory tour to the Frederick Law Olmstead parks and greenway of Louisville. My husband and I also toured New Albany, Indiana, a small Ohio River town that is making restoration work for revitalization, and Columbus, Indiana, a community of 39,000 that ranks sixth in the nation for innovation and design of its architecture (and that also values preservation).

Two other members of CHRS's Historic Preservation Committee were at the conference. Donna

Hanousek attended many of the real estate/tax sessions and was part of a team on a full-day investigation of the 1852 U.S. Marine Hospital, designed by Robert Mills. They looked at the site structure, systems, finishes and architectural elements. Shauna Holmes, a staff member of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation that was giving a workshop on the Section 106 process, had a full schedule of official duties but managed to catch some sessions, including "Commissioners and Developers: A Meeting of the Minds" that was about the ways to communicate with people who may have different backgrounds and preservation objectives, "all of which may be compatible in the end." ✧

Mark Your Calendar!

NOVEMBER

9 Tuesday, 8:00pm

Overbeck Lecture: Boss Shepherd.
Grand Meeting Hall of the Naval
Lodge, 330 Pennsylvania Avenue,
SE

16 Tuesday, 6:30pm

CHRS Board Meeting. Kirby House,
420 Tenth Street, SE

17 Wednesday, 6:30pm

Preservation Café. "Who Lived in
My House?" and tips for research-
ing your house history. Trattoria
Alberto, 506 Eighth Street, SE

November Preservation Café Focuses on House Research

On Wednesday, November 17, Patrick Crowley of the Association for the Preservation of the Historic Congressional Cemetery will talk about the new databases that volunteers at the cemetery have developed that may help folks find out "Who Lived in My House?"

Donna Hanousek, an experienced historic structures researcher and a member of CHRS's Historic Preservation Committee, will have information on house research basics and will be able to answer questions about permit research and other resources in the city. ✧



Capitol Hill Restoration Society

420 Tenth Street, SE
Washington, DC 20003
