



NEWS

www.chrs.org

May 2014

2014 Capitol Hill House and Garden Tour

By Paul Cromwell

Celebrate Mother's Day weekend, the coming of spring after a long winter or simply the beauty of Capitol Hill by joining CHRS for our 57th annual House and Garden Tour, May 10 and 11, 2014. This year, explore how some of the Hill's finest homes have evolved to successfully integrate the old and the new. No wood stoves left to care for, but some innovative and kitchens. No horses in the carriage houses, but some very nice cars! Almost half of the homes have been very recently and extensively renovated which means that there will a number of new bathrooms and kitchens on display along with information about architects, craftsmen and appliances. Visit the twelve homes (and a garden) along a walkable mile and one-quarter route between 3rd and 9th Streets Southeast, and Constitution Avenue south to Independence Avenue.

The gardens include one with a large and fully-stocked koi pond, a carefully designed rear garden developed by its landscape designer/owner and one which is large enough to share fences with seven other properties. There is a green roof garden on a carriage house, open for those who wish to visit (but also visible from the main house).

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Mother's Day House and Garden Tour

Saturday, May 10 · 4–7 pm | Sunday, May 11 · 12–5 pm

This year's tour features the neighborhood from Constitution Avenue south to Independence Avenue, and from 3rd Street east to 9th Street, SE.

Tickets

Public advance purchase through May 9: \$25; tour weekend, \$30

Local ticket outlets:

Riverby Books
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 3–4
May 10–11

**Purchase online
via Paypal:**
www.chrs.org



This year's tour features twelve homes, including 606 A Street, SE.

IMAGE COURTESY JUDITH V. MAY

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President's Column

By Janet Quigley

Help Wanted: House Tour

Of all the projects CHRS takes on, my most pleasant task is working on the Capitol Hill Mother's Day House and Garden tour. Unlike city agency proceedings, which are adversarial by nature, the house tour is a model of cooperation. Everyone involved with the tour is happy: the homeowners who work hard to get their houses ready, the sponsors who donate hard-earned money to support preservation in the community, the volunteers who cheerfully give their time and the visitors who enjoy the romance of historic houses and the camaraderie of friends, family and neighbors. It is truly remarkable to see the Capitol Hill community come together year after year to make this event a success. I hope you will donate, volunteer and/or attend: every effort helps the CHRS cause. This year is the 57th: help us do it again!

Meet the new boss...

Mayor Gray has named Ellen McCarthy as Acting Director of the Office of Planning, replacing Harriet Tregoning who moved to the office of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Ms. McCarthy held the same position from 2003 to 2007 in the Anthony Williams administration, and was instrumental in the development of the North of Massachusetts Avenue (NOMA) area and in overhauling the Comprehensive Plan. She then entered private practice, advising large clients including the Trump Organization, Madison Square Garden and the DC Public Library. Greater Greater Washington hails her as a smart growth proponent. She is also a professor at Georgetown University's Masters Program for Professional Studies in Urban and

Regional Planning. With the comment period for the Zoning Regulation Rewrite extended to September 15, 2014 and a Comprehensive Plan update in the future, Ms. McCarthy has many challenges ahead.

DCRA: Postcards Please!

April saw two defections of DC agency heads. Nick Majett, Director of the Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs (DCRA), has taken a position with Prince George's County. DCRA has come a long way; years ago it was criticized for its dysfunctional permitting process. Now much is online and streamlined; residents not in historic districts can apply online for a simplified "postcard permit" for interior work. What many people may not realize is that interior renovations within Historic Districts do not require Historic Preservation Office review. Because of this, CHRS has advocated for extension of the Postcard Permit to the Capitol Hill Historic District. It would require some reprogramming of DCRA's computer system, but would save time and effort for city staff and historic district residents alike. Let's hope the next Director will be open to additional streamlining.

DDoT: Adopt a Park

Also departing is Terry Bellamy, who has served since 2011 as Director of the Department of Transportation. He was heavily involved in the 11th Street Bridge and DC Streetcar projects. The departure coincides with a proposal by Councilmember Mary Cheh to reorganize DDoT, creating a separate District Transit Authority to coordinate streetcars, and a Department of Parking Management to consolidate handling of tickets and permits. In September 2013,

CHRS unsuccessfully called on DDoT to require ANC review and HPO approval of public space applications regarding "pocket parks" and to adopt the Department of Parks and Recreation's transparency-friendly "park adoption" program, or to consolidate the parcels under DPR control. As discussions over staffing and reorganization progress, we will be looking for opportunities to promote these goals.

No Boarding School on Stanton Park

Ever since the Imani Temple building at 6th and Maryland Ave., NE was put up for sale in 2012, there has been speculation as to what sort of organization would take its place. Recently a group called the Washington Leadership Academy (WLA) proposed to put a residential charter school there for two hundred high school juniors and seniors. (See more information here: <http://bit.ly/1flv0jz>)

The concept was to provide DC students with service-learning experiences in Congressional offices and to use the temple as a dormitory, similar to the Senate Page Program at 300 4th Street, NE.

Seth Andrew of WLA worked closely with ANC Commissioner Scott Price to try to limit the impact of the 200-teenager project on the neighborhood, which will also gain 160 new residents from the Medlink apartment project on 7th Street, NE and 40 students from a new University of Georgia (UGA) dormitory in the 600 block of Massachusetts Avenue, NE. Using a community agreement with UGA as a template, WLA was willing to

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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.

www.CHRS.org

Celebrating nearly 60 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
- ★ 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.

Historic Preservation Briefs

by Beth Purcell

The Historic Preservation Review Board (HPRB) considered the following cases on April 3, 2014. 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. In these reports, "staff" refers to the staff of the Historic Preservation Office, which serves as the staff of the HPRB.

819 D Street NE, Way of the Cross Church, HPA 14-180, concept/ exterior alterations, rooftop addition. This is a large Gothic Revival church built circa 1897-1898 for the Ninth Street Christian Church. The church features multiple stained glass windows, including two very large ones, as shown in the photograph. The proposed project would convert the church building into condominiums. A major issue in the application is proposed changes to the stained glass windows, which are considered to be character-defining features. The Board adopted the staff report and recommended against the following alterations: expansion of the areaways, church roof skylights, and any rooftop structures on the row houses adjacent to the church (and part of the project). The Board requested the applicant provide a mock-up of a modified stained glass window prior to making a determination on any window alterations. The Board will consider the case again in May 2014.



IMAGE COURTESY BETH PURCELL

Way of the Cross Church, 819 D Street, NE.

140 12th Street SE, HPA 14-184, concept/second story carriage house addition. The Board found the concept to be consistent with the purposes of the preservation act and delegated final approval to staff with the condition that the applicant further differentiate the addition from the original building; work with staff on the location of mechanical units and any new meters; and simplify details around the doors and windows. ★

April Preservation Café: Talk with John Wennersten

By Elizabeth Nelson

John R. Wennersten, Capitol Hill resident and author, was the April Preservation Café speaker. He has recently published a new book, "The Historic Waterfront of Washington, D.C." and shared it with a large and attentive audience. The attendees included the usual Hill denizens but also neighbors living on the Southwest Waterfront.

As Wennersten describes it, the waterfront extends from Georgetown up to Bladensburg and includes Alexandria and areas not always thought of as "waterfront"—Rock Creek Park, for example. His presentation touched on just some of the many interesting facts described in greater detail in his book. A few highlights include:

- Georgetown was the original waterfront and was the center of the world beaver trade in the seventeenth century. Later, the cycle of commerce turned to tobacco, followed by smoked and salted fish.
- The Navy Yard was the second waterfront site to be developed. Originally, the Navy Yard was set to be located in Baltimore, a more obvious choice of a port. However, it was established at its present location at Thomas Jefferson's insistence. Instead of coffee breaks, workers once enjoyed whiskey breaks from a whiskey wagon servicing the Yard to keep the men on-site and out of the bars.
- What is now the National Mall area of the city once included a series of internal canals, laid out by Pierre L'Enfant. Water came from the aquifer (Tiber Creek) near Florida Ave. An early design included an enormous waterfall cascade flowing from the top of the Capitol to the bottom of the hill.
- Former Mayor Marion Barry was an early proponent of efforts to establish the modern, non-commercial, recreational use of the District's waterfront.

Wennersten views Anacostia Park in Southeast as a resource that is particularly under-used and undervalued. He described it as nearly barren, "nothing there, not even trees." He also identified Rock Creek as suffering from neglected maintenance of the sewer pipes running along both banks.

If you were unable to attend the April Preservation Café, Wennersten will reprise his talk at the Politics and Prose bookstore on Saturday, June 28 at 3:30 p.m. His book can be purchased at Barnes and Noble, Politics and Prose, and Riverby Books; copies are also available at his Capitol Hill home. He can be reached at (202) 547-7971. ★

President's Column, *continued from page 2*

commit to similar terms. However, at an ANC hearing on the matter neighbors raised additional concerns. The building has no parking, which Imani Temple gave as its reason for moving. The historically significant building would need extensive renovation and permitting, did not have enough living space for the number of students planned and has no recreation space. The concerns proved to be insurmountable and WLA agreed to withdraw the plan to use the Imani Temple and seek a more appropriate location.

Best Wishes to Helen Au

We would like to extend best wishes to CHRS member and lifelong Capitol Hill resident Ms. Helen Au, who turns 100 in May. Helen has shared her decades-long memories of Capitol Hill in an interview that will be posted by the Overbeck Project so that we can all enjoy her impressions of life on the Hill. Happy birthday, Helen, and thank you! ★

Thank You CHRS Supporters

We thank the following patrons and sponsors.

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Nominees for the 2014–15 CHRS Board of Directors

The Election Committee's recommendations for nominees for the 2014-15 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, 2014. Once distributed, ballots must be completed and returned within two weeks.

Lisa Dale Jones has been nominated to serve as the President of the Society. Susan Burgerman and Patrick Crowley have been nominated to serve second terms as Secretary and Treasurer, respectively. Undine Nash has been nominated for a second term as Member at Large. Three new At-large Members have also been nominated: Jeff Fletcher, for a one-year term; and Jim Taylor and Mary Wadleigh for two-year terms. (Chuck Burger and Ben Klay are completing the first year of two-year at-large terms.) Brief biographies of the nominees are below.

Lisa Dale Jones (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. Lisa is interested in history and historic preservation. She was co-editor of the CHRS newsletter from January 2011 until May 2014, and has written many 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 heart-centered coaches, speakers, and authors learn to tell their stories and speak confidently in public.

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.

Drury Tallant (Second Vice President) 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.

Susan Burgerman (Secretary) arrived on Capitol Hill in July of 2005, and has spent much of her time restoring the exterior and renovating the interior of an 1890s 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 (HCC), which achieved National Historic Landmark status at the end of his term as Board Chairman. 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 Capitol Hill Community Foundation (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.

Undine Nash (At-Large) grew up in the 1,000-year-old City of Bremen, Germany, and was always interested in the architectural representation of the past. 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 Navy Yard and initiated legislation to name an alley on Capitol Hill after the little-known architect of Eastern Market, Adolf Cluss. After experiencing so much help from both the CHRS and

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There may also be some surprises en route. Many tour-goers will be surprised to learn that for nearly half a century a hostel has occupied a large building originally constructed as a real estate office on the ground floor with family quarters above.

A beautifully constructed circa 1870 home presents multiple mysteries: who constructed the home? How were the funds for construction obtained? How did the owner die? Do the reported ghosts sightings represent a return of the original owner?

And the third-largest observatory in the District. Given the complexities of the staircase, the observatory is not open for the Tour, but is visible from the rear. The observatory, along with a plethora of antiques on the second and third floors, will be open to donors making a contribution of \$500 or greater to the House Tour. Dates for this exclusive tour to be determined.

We look forward to seeing you at the 57th Annual Capitol Hill House and Garden Tour. ★

2014 Tour Homes

415 Independence Avenue, SE

21 Fifth Street, SE

515 East Capitol Street, SE

606 A Street, SE

200 Sixth Street, SE

608 Independence Avenue, SE

101 Eighth Street, SE

814 A Street, SE (garden only)

826 A Street, SE

19 Ninth Street, SE

628 East Capitol, NE

619 Constitution Avenue, NE

22 Third Street, NE

201 Fourth Street, SE—Refreshment Break (Sunday only)

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. While much of the work will have been performed by the time this newsletter reaches you, we do have need for assistance on Tour weekend.

Our biggest need is docents, who welcome and assist the visitors to the homes and gardens that are on the Tour. Volunteers are still needed for various shifts at each tour location on Saturday, May 10, and Sunday, May 11, as well as the refreshment break on Sunday.

Prospective docents should please contact Paul Cromwell at: (202) 543-7530 or paulcromwell@verizon.net. We appreciate your enthusiasm and your time!

May Preservation Café: Alley Buildings of Capitol Hill

Our May Preservation Café will focus on a less visible, but still significant, historic resource of this neighborhood: the alley buildings of Capitol Hill. Architectural Historian Kim Prothro Williams will speak about the surviving alley buildings in the “old” city (the L’Enfant Plan) and Georgetown, a subject she has researched extensively over the last three years. The presentation will provide some background on the history of alleyways in the city, the rise of alley dwellings and other building types within those passages. A review of the findings on Capitol Hill will highlight some of Capitol Hill’s most quintessential historic alley buildings.

Williams has a Master of Architectural History degree from the University of Virginia, with extensive experience in the field of historic preservation. For over 20 years, she has conducted large-scale cultural resource surveys, and has researched and written about historic buildings in D.C., Virginia and Maryland. As the National Register Coordinator with the D.C. Historic Preservation Office, Kim’s primary focus is to research, prepare and evaluate historic landmark and historic district nominations for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. In addition to the Historic Alley Buildings Survey, she is also working a second city-wide survey: the Farms and Estates Survey, researching rural remnants of the former Washington County.

Wednesday, May 21, 6:30–7:15 pm, Ebenezers Coffee House (downstairs), 2nd and F Streets, NE. Handicapped-accessible; no reservations required. Contact Elizabeth Nelson, (202) 543-3512 with questions.

Members Become “Current” on River Improvements

By Janet Quigley

Many DC residents would be surprised to hear, “There are more places to store a multimillion dollar yacht than a canoe” on the Anacostia River, according to Paul Ryberg of the Anacostia Watershed Society (AWS). Addressing the CHRS Spring Members Forum, he described the progress AWS has made in improving the river experience: 600 people took advantage of free canoeing nights last season; more than 100 paddled in the moonlight and participated in other Anacostia Safari events; storage racks for 30 boats were added at the Anacostia Community Boathouse; and a universally-accessible dock was installed at Bladensburg. These accomplishments build support for a

cleaner river and an increase in free and low-cost recreation opportunities for area residents. (See Mr. Ryberg’s presentation at www.chrs.org.)

Christina Erling of the Anacostia Community Boathouse (ACBA) related the wide variety of activities facilitated through the Boathouse. Through member organizations such as the Capital Rowing Club and the National Capital Area Women’s Paddling Association, more than 900 adults and school-age children train, race, exercise on and otherwise enjoy the river each year. Highlights include the Head of the Anacostia Regatta and Apple Pie Contest in September and four dragon boating teams that compete throughout the season. ★

Events and Resources

- May 16: Moonlit Paddle (AWS)
- May 17: CHRS River Tour (AWS)
- June 6: Free paddle night at Ballpark Boathouse
- June 7: Learn to Row Day (ACBA)
- June 12: Free paddle night at ACBA
- June 14: Bike Train + Paddle (AWS)

Anacostia Watershed Society
anacostiaws.org, (301) 699-6204

Anacostia Community Boathouse
anacostiaboathouse.org

Capital Rowing Club
CapitalRowing.org

National Capital Area Women’s Paddling Association
ncawpa.org

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the DC Historic Preservation Office (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.

Jeff Fletcher (At-Large) is a native Washingtonian who has lived on Capitol Hill for 41 years. Jeff worked for 35 years doing communications and membership services work for the National League of Cities (NLC), a nonprofit urban advocacy group. After retiring from NLC, he served for nearly four years as the CHRS office manager. He was a member of the ANC 6A economic development and zoning committee for six years and is now a member of ANC 6A’s transportation and public space committee.

James E. “Jim” Taylor (At-Large) has lived on the Hill for 22 years, restoring his Victorian turn-of-the-century G Street NE home. He is active in CHRS and the revitalization of the H Street Corridor. He retired in 2010 after 45 years of ordained ministry in The United Methodist Church, the last fifteen years as Associate General Secretary, General Commission on Religion and Race on the Hill. He currently serves on the CHRS Zoning Committee and volunteers at his neighborhood church, Capitol Hill United Methodist. Rev. Taylor is a graduate of Butler University (Indianapolis) and the Wesley Theological Seminary (Washington, DC). Prior to returning to Washington, he served as Executive Director of the Indiana Interreligious Commission on Human Equality. Previously, he served as Director of Neighborhood Planning for the City of Muncie, Community Development Department.

Mary Wadleigh (At-Large) was born in Boston and grew up in Concord, Massachusetts. She moved to Washington in 1973 to begin a job on the staff of U.S. Senator Edward W. Brooke. Purchasing a small townhouse “steps from the Senate,” Mary quickly became captivated with the community of Capitol Hill. She joined CHRS right away and became a member of the Zoning Committee, also leading similar efforts with the Stanton Park Neighborhood Association. An active life raising two children on the Hill followed. Mary moved back to Massachusetts for several years, earned a college degree, and then returned to Capitol Hill in 2007. Mary now divides her time between church and community involvements here, and rehabilitating a lovely second home and garden on the coast of Maine. ★



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

Mark Your Calendar!

MAY

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

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

10 Saturday 10 am–2 pm
Volunteer Capitol Hill: Annual volunteer fair hosted by the Hill Center and sponsored by National Capital Bank, the Capitol Hill Community Foundation and the Hill Rag. Sign-ups and information on Hill nonprofits. Details: Ann Goodwin, 499-6448.

17 Saturday, 9–11 am
CHRS Special Boat Tour of the Anacostia River hosted by the Anacostia Watershed Society (AWS). Details: CHRS Office, 543-0425 or CapHRS@aol.com.

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

21 Wednesday, 19, 6:30–7:15 pm
CHRS Preservation Café: Kim Williams will speak on the Alley Buildings of Capitol Hill. Ebenezers Coffee House (downstairs), 2nd and F Street, NE. Wheelchair accessible; no reservations required. Details: Elizabeth Nelson, 543-3512.

JUNE

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

4 Wednesday, 6:45 pm
Summer Membership Meeting and Forum: ZRR 411: The DC Zoning Regulation Rewrite. The Hill Center, 921 Pennsylvania Avenue, SE, first floor. Details: Janet Quigley, 543-0425.

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

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

57th Annual Capitol Hill House and Garden Tour

Saturday, May 10 • 4–7 pm | Sunday, May 11 • 12–5 pm

Starts at 415 Independence Avenue, SE. More information and tickets available at 543-0425 or www.chrs.org.