Some of Capitol Hill’s most spectacular homes will be on view May 12 and 13 as Hill homeowners open their doors for this annual tradition. This year’s selection, most of which have never before been seen on the tour, will transport visitors to Paris, Asia, the 19th century and the great outdoors.

**Traditional Touches:** Several homes display the rewards of painstaking restoration. 425 New Jersey Avenue SE, was meticulously restored over a 25-year period. The owner tracked down and matched period stained glass, gasoliers, doorknobs, hinges, and moulding—with stunning results.

A 2016 renovation of 647 South Carolina Avenue SE preserved many 1911 elements, including the tin ceiling in the living room, original moulding, doors and windows, three fireplace mantels with cast iron summer covers, ornate radiators, the pocket door between the living room and the dining room, the staircase and railings, mosaic floor and wall tile in the front vestibule, and heart-pine floors.

Visitors will discover a seamless blend of old and new at 325 D Street SE, from the 1860’s original-wood beams in the living room, coal burning parlor stove and heart-pine plank flooring throughout, to the state-of-the-art, ADA-compliant, wheelchair-friendly basement apartment built to support multi-generational living. A magnificent view of the Washington Monument rewards those who make the climb to the roof deck.

Similarly, the spacious 310 4th Street SE features stained glass, pocket doors, transoms and period radiators. Light fills the house via a bright skylight and large glass rear door leading to the garden.
CHRS to Hold Elections for Officers and Directors

By Monte Edwards

The Election Committee’s recommendations for nominees for the 2018–2019 Board of Directors have been approved by the current Board of Directors. Ballots will be mailed to all CHRS members who are on the rolls as of May 1, 2018. Once distributed, ballots must be completed and returned within two weeks. The results of the election will be announced at the June Membership Meeting.

Elizabeth Nelson has been re-nominated to serve as the President of the Society. Janet Quigley has been nominated to serve as First Vice-President. Tina May has been nominated to serve as Second Vice-President. Susan Oursler has been re-nominated for a second term as Secretary and Adam Apton for a third term as Treasurer. Five At-Large Directors have also been nominated: Joanna Kendig and Steve Kehoe have been re-nominated, and Patrick Lally, Maygene Daniels and Angie Schmidt have been nominated. Michelle Carroll, elected in 2017 to a two-year term, will continue as a Director.

Elizabeth Nelson (President) and her husband, Nick Alberti, have lived on Capitol Hill since 1985. She joined the Board in 2005 serving three terms as an At-Large member before becoming Community Relations Chair in 2010. She is completing her second term as President and continues as webmaster, a role she adopted in 2014. Nelson is a prolific knitter with an interest in arts education. She volunteers at Maury ES and organizes exhibits for the Hill Center’s Young Artists Gallery. Nelson also serves as the Treasurer of Trees for Capitol Hill and Chair of the North Lincoln Park Neighborhood Association, and writes for the Hill Rag. She’s committed to preserving Capitol Hill’s charm and neighborhood feel and to maintaining public space as a community asset.

Janet Quigley (First Vice-President) has served on the CHRS Board since 2009, including two terms as President from 2012 to 2014 and currently in an At-Large position where she assists with the annual Capitol Hill House and Garden Tour. Dedicated to preserving the residential nature of Capitol Hill, she previously served as an Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner, Stanton Park Neighborhood Association Land Use Committee member, and Capitol Hill Coalition for Sensible Development Chair. Quigley was active in the effort to redevelop a vacant portion of the MedLink Hospital property (now BridgePoint) into an architecturally compatible apartment building in scale with the Stanton Park neighborhood. After a civil service career with the Navy, bringing Armed Forces Radio and Television to ships at sea, she retired in 2016 to pursue interests in history and travel. She has lived on Capitol Hill since 1995.

Tina May (Second Vice-President) is currently serving in an At-Large position on the board. She moved to Capitol Hill in 1982 for an affordably-priced rental house with college friends and has lived here ever since. Soon thereafter, she and her husband Peter bought their first house in need of restoration. Working with little more than a subscription to the Old House Journal and a lot of patience, they completed that house, and then a second, and are now working on their third (the “gut job”). They have been members of CHRS since at least 2002—back in the days when a membership included a subscription to the OHJ. The Mays raised three sons in the middle of these renovations who not only survived the occasional lack of plumbing and more than a few splinters, but they actually became (sometimes) willing renovation workers before leaving to become engineers. May has been active in many local issues, especially neighborhood public schools and the Boy Scouts. She cares deeply about public institutions and the public realm. May works in the music business doing concert production.

Susan Oursler (Secretary) is completing her first term as Secretary. She moved to Capitol Hill from Indiana in 1979. Over the past 30 years she and her husband, Richard Kasting, have owned and lovingly restored the 1912 home that they share with their two daughters. Susan has been an active volunteer for various Capitol Hill organizations including the North Lincoln Park Neighborhood Association and the Peabody, St. Peter, Maury and Capitol Hill Day schools. Oursler retired from the Senate in 2014, where she served as the Chief Clerk of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. As chief of the nonpartisan staff, she worked closely with the Senate Historian to preserve Senate and Committee records and to publish previously classified documents created in the 1960s and 1970s. Oursler also provided input to the staff of the Architect of the

Continued on page 6
Zoning Committee Report

by Gary Peterson

During a meeting held on April 12, 2018, the Committee considered the following cases:

BZA #19737, 500 13th Street SE. Involves the application to locate a real estate office in a building that is zoned RF-1, former R-4, residential. The two story building, circa 1924, was built with commercial on the first floor and residential on the second floor. It is located on the southeast corner of 13th and E Streets SE just across E Street from Peter Bug Shoe Repair Academy. The neighborhood is full of new or soon-to-be new residential. The property is currently used as residential and the applicant needs a use variance to convert it to office use.

In order to get a use variance the applicant must show: 1. An exceptional situation resulting in an undue hardship; 2. No substantial detriment to the public good; and 3. No substantial harm to the Zoning Regulations.

The Committee voted to oppose this application as it applies to the second floor that was built for and is occupied as residential. The purpose of the RF Zone is to preserve housing and the applicant did not present evidence showing that it cannot be used as it is already used. The Committee also voted to oppose the application for the first floor reasoning that there are many examples on Capitol Hill of corner commercial properties being converted to residential and the applicant did not prove that doing so created an “undue hardship” (emphasis added).

BZA #19742, 732 4th Street NE. This property is in the portion of the Historic District that was recently (2015) added to the Capitol Hill Historic District. The applicant wishes to add a three story addition and fill in a dogleg. The proposed addition will increase the lot occupancy to 70%, the maximum allowed by special exception. Under the new RF zoning provisions the addition may not change the rhythm for all of these reasons, the committee voted to oppose the application.

BZA #19747, 445 15th Street SE. This case presents the prickly problem of a buyer of a house with a detached garage who, after the closing, discovers that the garage was built without a building permit or a curb cut. There is an alley behind the garage but the entrance faces 15th Street. In order to get a curb cut the applicant needs a building permit; and to get the building permit she needs zoning relief. For the zoning relief the applicant needs a special exception for an accessory building that exceeds 100 square feet, a special exception for a building that is not setback 12 feet from the centerline of an alley, and a variance from the lot occupancy requirements.

The house and garage occupy 85% of the lot. While the committee understands that the current owner did not build the offending accessory building, the committee believes that she should have been tipped off by the lack of driveway and curb cut. The applicant has other options available such as demolishing the garage and uncovered parking with access off the alley or removing two feet of the building facing the alley and make the entrance on the alley. It should be noted that the garage also encroaches on public space by 3.25 feet on the 15th Street side and the owner needs a permit for this as well. For all of these reasons, the committee voted to oppose the application.

Continued on page 4
Antebellum Homes: To see homes built before the Civil War, go to 123 6th Street SE, 319 D and 327 4th Streets SE. Construction started before 1860 on 325 D Street SE and was completed around 1867. Just imagine the woods and crops that could be found on the lots in between some houses during that period!

A Touch of France: The 1870’s home at 518 6th Street SE was renovated last year in the style of a Parisian townhouse and ranks high on the “wow” scale. It features generous space and light, an over-the-top kitchen and a courtyard garden by renowned landscape designer Ohme Van Sweden.

The Great Outdoors: The garden at 319 D Street SE should not be missed. The last renovation was designed around the garden, with the guidance to “bring the outside in and take the inside out.” The renovation opened up the house without changing the footprint, thus retaining the garden’s prominence.

The Far East in Southeast: In addition to retaining such original features as windows, transoms and doors, 437 New Jersey Avenue SE is uniquely outfitted with furniture and decorative pieces from the owner’s military postings in Asia. Visitors will easily recognize the home by the University of Kansas flag proudly displayed out front by this ardent Jayhawks fan.

House Tour Activities
We hope you will enjoy these tour-related activities:

Walking Tour: Don’t forget to check out the walking tour of Duddington Place with its signature benches and varied history, led by Beth Purcell on Saturday at 5 pm and Sunday at 2 pm and 4 pm.

Refreshment Station: Be sure to stop by the American Legion during or after your tour on Saturday and Sunday to rest your feet and enjoy drinks and snacks.

Sport & Health Tour: Visitors are invited to view the recent million-dollar upgrade of this fitness facility, housed in the building that served as the J. R. Giddings School from 1887 until its sale by the District in 1994.

Dining: Check your ticket for special offers at Bullfeathers and Tortilla Coast, good through the end of May.

Last-Minute Tickets
Patrons wishing to buy tickets the day of the tour (May 12 or 13) have several options:

- American Legion (224 D Street SE): Located in the heart of the tour footprint, this will serve as “headquarters” and will-call pickup site on Saturday, 4–7 pm and Sunday, 1–5 pm. Tip: All locations will accept cash or checks on those days, but only this location will accept credit cards.

- Individual Houses: The nine houses on the tour will have tickets available for purchase by cash or check: 425 and 437 New Jersey Avenue SE; 319 and 325 D Street SE; 310 and 327 4th Street SE; 123 and 518 6th Street SE; and 647 South Carolina Avenue SE.

- Order Online: The CHRS.org website will be open for business on Saturday and Sunday. Print your confirmation and redeem it at will-call (American Legion) for tickets.

- Eastern Market Ticket Booth: Visit the booth Saturday, 9 am–3 pm, or Sunday, 9 am–1 pm. Look for the blue House Tour tent in front of 230 7th Street SE.

Tickets are $40 on tour days and $35 when purchased in advance.

Tour details, ticket information and FAQs are available at the CHRS.org website. For updates, “like” CHRS on Facebook or follow CHRSDC on Twitter. For questions, contact the CHRS office.

Many thanks to the generous sponsors of the 2018 Capitol Hill House and Garden Tour:

Platinum
The Rob & Brent Group, TTR Sotheby’s International Realty

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Hill Rag
Schneider’s of Capitol Hill

Zoning, continued from page 3

or pattern of buildings when viewed, in this case, from the alley. This property is at the north end of a row of 16 houses that have doglegs and the committee believed this addition will damage the pattern of doglegs. For this reason, the committee voted to oppose the application. The CHRS Historic Preservation Committee is also reviewing this property.
Solar Power on the Hill at the April Preservation Café

By Joanna Kendig

The Sustainable DC framework supports and encourages increased use of renewable energy sources in the District as a part of overall plan to reach net zero greenhouse emissions by 2050. Increasing production of electric energy on our roofs fits with this ambitious goal. Upgrades to existing building stock also support reduction of our carbon footprint. Becoming energy generators by installing photovoltaic (PV) panels on our roofs is feasible, financially advantageous and supported by DC regulatory climate.

Two experts from Solar United Neighbors of DC, Program Director Yesenia Rivera and Corey Ramsden, VP Go Solar Programs, explained the purpose of solar photovoltaic systems and how they work. Corey walked us through technical and financial aspects of solar energy systems. Both then answered questions from the engaged audience.

Solar United Neighbors is a network started in 2007 when Mount Pleasant homeowners, frustrated with complexities of their PV installation, organized with neighbors to create DC’s first solar coop. DC SUN was born. In following years other coops were created and many solar energy systems installed. By now this non-for-profit, advocacy, solar tech assistance, citizen powered organization, renamed Solar United Neighbors, has expanded into eight other states.

Solar United Neighbors of DC helps our citizens go solar by organizing group purchase co-ops. When 50 to 100 residents sign up, they solicit proposals from several solar installers, review installers qualifications and negotiate bulk purchase pricing. Co-op member volunteers collectively select the contractor(s) and then obtain individual proposals for installations on their own roofs. The process takes approximately 8 months to completion.

Solar electric systems consist of panels capturing solar energy, inverters converting DC current to AC, and mounting systems. Solar panels vary in efficiency. Mounting systems depend on the type of roof. Inverters range from one for a whole panel array to individual ones per panel. The size of the system is dependent on energy usage and on the size of the roof, its orientation and shading. The system is measured in kW, electricity production in kWh, like on a PEPCO bill.

On Capitol Hill, systems on homes range from 3 to 6 kW. Most are row houses, so mounting systems tend to be attached to beams spanning between parapet walls. A homeowner might choose more expensive higher efficiency panels and individual inverters if the roof area is limited or partially shaded or if setbacks are required because of being in the historic district. Or a homeowner might opt for a simpler and less expensive system. The selected installer reviews individual property conditions, presents a proposal and helps homeowners in making the right choice.

Solar energy systems are interconnected with the utility grid. On sunny days the surplus energy is sent to the city grid, getting homeowners energy credit and helping to power other homes nearby. On cloudy days or at night, solar

May Preservation Café: Preservation and Sustainability Series

The third and final talk of this Preservation and Sustainability series will be a presentation on improving energy efficiency of our homes by architect Nakita Reed, principal of Encore Sustainable Design LLC. Ms Reed has spent her career working to combine historic preservation with sustainable design and has experience in combining historic tax credits and LEED certification.

Preservation and sustainability are overlapping concepts. Buildings consume more energy than any other sector in the United States. As more buildings become historic and new sustainable technologies are invented to reduce the energy consumption of building operations there are more ways to improve energy performance of existing and historic buildings.

Join us at the May Café to explore a high-level view of the historic preservation and sustainability and receive tangible take-aways for improving energy efficiency in historic buildings. This session will focus on historic homes, understanding practical ways to improve their energy efficiency without sacrificing character and remain in compliance with regulations applicable in historic districts.

The May Preservation Café will be held Wednesday, May 16, in the downstairs meeting room at Northeast Neighborhood Library, 330 7th Street NE, from 6:30 pm to 7:30 pm. Hope to see you there!

Continued on page 7
Charming tree-lined streets that made their transition from the Heights to the Hill felt like home in almost no time at all. Apton is an attorney by profession. While living in New York, he focused his practice on construction-related matters representing both property owners and developers. He now spends the majority of his time representing private investors in corporate investigations and securities fraud actions. Apton and his family enjoy helping preserve the charming tree-lined streets that made their transition from the Heights to the Hill so wonderful.

Adam Apton (Treasurer) is completing his third term as Treasurer. He moved to Washington with his wife in 2013. After a number of years living in and around the Brooklyn Heights Historic District in Brooklyn, New York, the Hill felt like home in almost no time at all. Apton is an attorney by profession. While living in New York, he focused his practice on construction-related matters representing both property owners and developers. He now spends the majority of his time representing private investors in corporate investigations and securities fraud actions. Apton and his family enjoy helping preserve the charming tree-lined streets that made their transition from the Heights to the Hill so wonderful.

Joanna Kendig (At-Large) fell in love in Capitol Hill while shopping for a house in 2008. While organizing neighborhood tours for the 2012 National AIA Convention she benefited from CHRS support and learned of benefits of CHRS advocacy on Capitol Hill. Growing up post war Europe where much of historic fabric endured horrific destruction she saw both cities preserved and cities reconstructed. In her architectural career she worked for many years in an office that successfully mixed new architecture and historic preservation projects. Kendig is a firm believer in balancing preserving the past while supporting the new. She has served on the CHRS Historic Preservation Committee since 2014 and is currently completing her first term At-Large.

Steve Kehoe (At-Large) and his spouse, Bill Crews, have lived on Capitol Hill since late 1998. He retired from the District Department of Transportation (DDOT) over 2 years ago where he worked on various public space policy and regulatory initiatives. His regulatory and public space permitting expertise has proven valuable to the Society since he joined the board in January of 2016. Kehoe has a passion for preserving the unique character of the District’s public space and maintaining public access to Capitol Hill’s numerous small parks. Additionally, he has been named Chair of the Society’s ad-hoc Public Space Committee. His interests include gardening and wood working.

Patrick Lally (At-Large) is a native Washingtonian and has lived on Capitol Hill for 34 years. Pat restored an 1891 rowhouse in the new Swampoodle addition to the Capitol Hill Historic District and lives there with his wife and children. He is currently serving in the office of Governor Larry Hogan after completing an appointment as Special Assistant in government affairs and communications at the National Transportation Safety Board. Prior to that, he ran the Congressional Affairs Division at the National Trust for Historic Preservation and directed Mayor Rudy Giuliani’s Federal Affairs Office in Washington. An ardent preservationist, Lally has served on the boards of CHRS, the DC Preservation League, and Congressional Cemetery, and was a trustee of the Committee of 100 on the Federal City. Most recently, he worked on the successful campaign to expand the historic district in his neighborhood.

Maygene Daniels (At-Large) and her husband Steve have lived on Capitol Hill for more than 45 years and raised their children here. She began her career as an archivist at the National Archives, where she advocated for preservation of historic DC Building Permits, which remain a key resource for house history on Capitol Hill. After leaving the National Archives, she founded the archives at the National Gallery of Art, where she worked for more than 30 years. In her decades of archival work she explored subjects relating to the history, urban development and architecture of the city of Washington, the Mall, and Capitol Hill. Daniels selected images and wrote text for the historic signs in the Hill Center, and is currently co-organizer with Nancy Metzger of the Ruth Ann Overbeck Capitol Hill History Lecture Series.

Angie Schmidt (At-Large) moved to Washington in 1990 and in 2002 moved to the circa 1881 house on the Hill she shares with her family. She edited and published non-profit newsletters, magazines and scholarly journals before taking a break from her career to focus on her family. During that time, Schmidt volunteered in neighborhood schools (SWS, Peabody and Watkins) and was a Girl Scout Troop leader for 8 years as well as the local area GS Registrar. Through her children, now aged 9 and 15, she has been involved with neighborhood institutions such as MoTH, Sports on the Hill, Capitol Hill Little League, St. Marks Dance Studio, and the NE Neighborhood Library. She started volunteering with CHRS in 2016, serving as an editor for the
Ward 6 Candidates Forum

Hear the candidates for Ward 6 City Council debate on Tuesday, June 5 from 7–9 pm at the Westminster Presbyterian Church, 400 I Street SW. The event is sponsored by the Hill Rag and the Ward 6 Democrats.

The event hosts include The Capitol Hill Restoration Society, CHAMPS, The Hill Center, The Southwest Neighborhood Assembly, Westminster Presbyterian Church, DC Republican Party and The Thursday Network.

The public may submit questions for the candidates via email to debate@hillrag.com. Please put ‘Ward 6’ in the subject line so the question will be posed in the right forum.

April Café, continued from page 5

energy homes are still powered by PEPCO. In case of a power outage, the PV system is cut off from the grid for safety reasons and all homes remain without power. Technologies and regulations are evolving and in the future, with help of cheaper batteries and special circuits, solar energy powered homes might be able to keep the lights and refrigerators going when city power fails.

The size of the individual system is limited by current law to 120% of a home’s energy consumption. Net metering, energy used offset by energy generated, is mandatory. The renewable power generators also receive SRECs, Solar Renewable Energy Credits, with payments based on amount of energy produced. SRECs are financed by the utility payments related to DC requirements for clean electricity. A federal tax credit of 30% offsets the system cost.

Solar United Neighbors presented sample calculations regarding solar economics. These show that solar energy systems offer both consistent utility cost savings and overall profit to the homeowner. While the regulatory climate is still in flux, PVs that typically present 4- to 6-year payback and produce energy for over 20 years are a good investment. Solar United Neighbors of DC is participating in Solar for All, DC’s new solar energy initiative aiming to reduce the energy bill of at least 100,000 low-income households by financing their PV systems. Income qualified participants will own their system from day one at no cost to them.

For more information email dcteam@soalrunitdeinedneighbors.org.

Elections, continued from page 6

print edition of the CHRS News and attending all of the monthly CHRS Board meetings. Schmidt has always loved cities (her degree at GWU in American Studies focused on the urban environment) and thinks that the Hill encapsulates all the best parts of what Washington has to offer, both in the very old and historic and the new and improved.

May 21 Overbeck Lecture

Capitol Hill’s Historic Congressional Cemetery (HCC) is home to two notable types of temporary visitors who became permanent residents of Washington: members of Congress who died during office and Native Americans who died negotiating treaties or lobbying the government. During this illustrated lecture, William (Chuck) diGiacomantonio will discuss the multi-layered significance of the deceased to the Capitol Hill community. The lecture will be presented on Monday, May 21, at Hill Center, 921 Pennsylvania Avenue SE, at 7:30 pm. Overbeck lectures are supported by the Capitol Hill Community Foundation.

Thank You, CHRS Supporters!

SILVER
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(Dick Wolf Fund)
Michael Halebian
Todd DeGarmo & Bill Sales

BRONZE
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Mark Your Calendar!

MAY

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

10 Thursday, 7:30 pm
CHRS Zoning Committee, Kirby House, 420 10th Street SE, first floor. Details: Gary Peterson (202) 547-7969.

15 Tuesday 6:30 pm
CHRS Board of Directors, Capitol Hill Townhomes, 750 6th Street SE, second floor board room. Details: Elizabeth Nelson (202) 543-0425, info@chrs.org.

16 Wednesday 7 pm

21 Monday 7:30 pm
Overbeck Lecture: The Native Americans Who Never Left Capitol Hill at the Hill Center, 921 Pennsylvania Avenue SE. Details: (202) 549-4172 or nancymetzger@verizon.net.

JUNE

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

5 Tuesday, 7 pm
Ward 6 Candidate Forum at the Westminster Presbyterian Church, 400 I Street SW.

14 Thursday, 7:30 pm
CHRS Zoning Committee, Kirby House, 420 10th Street SE, first floor. Details: Gary Peterson (202) 547-7969.

19 Tuesday, 6:30 pm
CHRS Board of Directors, Capitol Hill Townhomes, 750 6th Street SE, second floor board room. Details: Elizabeth Nelson, (202) 543-0425, info@chrs.org.

28 Thursday, 7 pm
June CHRS Members Forum, Hill Center, 921 Pennsylvania Avenue SE. Presentation at 7pm; business meeting at 6:40 pm, at which the results of the elections for the 2018–2019 Board of Directors will be announced. Details: Elizabeth Nelson, (202) 543-0425, info@chrs.org.

61st Annual Capitol Hill House and Garden Tour
Mother’s Day Weekend · May 12–13, 2018
Information and tickets at: (202) 543-0425 or www.chrs.org