



CHRS CELEBRATING 60 YEARS OF PRESERVATION

# NEWS

www.chrs.org

April 2020

## House Tour Postponed: CHRS Reschedules Tour and Other Events Due to COVID-19

By Beth Purcell

To comply with public health measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19, CHRS has postponed or rescheduled several upcoming events:

**Dick Wolf Memorial Lecture: *RFK Stadium: From the Past to the Future***  
The lecture, originally set for March 27, 2020 has been postponed.

### 63rd Annual CHRS House and Garden Tour

The House and Garden Tour, originally scheduled for May 9 & 10, 2020, has been postponed until **September 12 & 13, 2020**. Our paramount goal is that the tour be a safe and enjoyable experience for homeowners and our guests. We are very grateful to all the homeowners

who agreed to participate in the House and Garden Tour, many of whom have been very supportive of participating in the tour in September.

### Preservation Cafés

Both the March 18, 2020 Preservation Café, *You and the National Register of Historic Places* with Robert Pohl, and the April 22, 2020 Preservation Café, *Callbox Revitalization Project: Part II*, with Nancy Metzger, have been postponed and will be rescheduled.

CHRS will reschedule these events and announce the dates, when it is safe. Please visit [chrs.org](http://chrs.org) for updates. Be well. ★

## Thank You to Our Sponsors

Many thanks to our House and Garden Tour sponsors! We appreciate their support—and the flexibility of the home owners—as we look forward to a rescheduled tour September 12 & 13, 2020. Photos of the houses and additional details are posted at: [chrs.org/house-and-garden-tour](http://chrs.org/house-and-garden-tour).

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# 2020 Photo Contest Winners

by Elizabeth Nelson

In anticipation of the 63rd anniversary of the Capitol Hill House and Garden Tour, the Society sponsored a photo contest: “The Capitol Hill Home.” We are very pleased to announce the winners, who will receive tickets to the Tour. Congratulations to Megan Grimaldi, Robert Weinstein and Nan Raphael; and runners-up Victor Romero and Nathaniel Liu.

Submissions included handsome facades, architectural details, and lovely gardens (and one antithesis of the Capitol Hill home). There were so many beautiful images that it was nearly impossible to choose. I was delighted to receive and preview all the photos—but deeply relieved that I didn’t need to do the choosing.

We’re publishing a sampling here; others will appear in the April edition of the Hill Rag. All the winners, runners-up, and “the best of the rest” are posted at [chrs.org/2020-photo-contest-winners](http://chrs.org/2020-photo-contest-winners).

Thank you to everyone who participated (many of whom submitted multiple photographs) including Rick Battino, Coen Blaauw, Stephanie Butto, Jennifer Flather, Megan Grimaldi, Helen Haislmaier, Nathaniel Liu, Norman Metzger, Nan Raphael, Victor Romero, Ben Schaibly, G.M. Smith, and Robert Weinstein. ★

## Thank you, CHRS Supporters!

### Contributors

*Annual Appeal*

Barbara & Michael Eck  
Lawrence A. Monaco



**CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: 3rd Place Winner Nan Raphael, 1010 Independence Avenue SE; Best of the Rest Winners Helen Haislmaier, One 2nd Street NE; Nathaniel Liu, Emerald Street NE; Robert Weinstein, 320 9th Street SE;**

# Capitol Hill Restoration Society (CHRS)

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## NEWSLETTER

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To reach any of the above, please contact the Society offices at (202) 543-0425 or via e-mail: caphrs420@gmail.com.

## ABOUT CHRS

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

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

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

To learn more or join, please visit:  
[www.CHRS.org](http://www.CHRS.org)

# Historic Preservation Briefs

By Beth Purcell

The Historic Preservation Review Board (HPRB or the Board) considered the following cases at the hearing on February 27, 2020. (The HPRB hearing scheduled for March 27 was postponed.) 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.

**411 New Jersey Avenue SE, HPA 20-180, concept/new construction,** two houses on an irregularly-shaped vacant lot at the end of a row of five brick rowhouses, 413-421 New Jersey Avenue. House 413 was built in 1896, and houses 415-421 are Second Empire houses dating from the 1870s. The proposal is for two three-story brick rowhouses with cellars and square towers at the corners. The brick exteriors continue from the front around the corner of the building, where it changes to a contemporary design with Viroc panels.

We believed that the new houses' massing and materials (mansard roofs, dormers, windows and doors) complement the existing houses. However, the plans for the front elevation copy very closely the existing Second Empire houses. This gives a false sense of history and does not read as buildings constructed in the 21st century. HPRB's *Introduction to the Historic Preservation Guidelines*, cites the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation:

The new work shall be differentiated from the old and shall be compatible with the massing, size, scale, and

architectural features to protect the historic integrity of the property and the environment. p. 5.

The *Guidelines* continue on p. 8:

New construction in historic districts should follow the same general principles as additions to historic buildings. New buildings in historic districts should be compatible with the character of the historic district and neighboring buildings without exactly duplicating a historic style or architectural period.

For these reasons, we suggested interpreting, not copying, the Second Empire houses.

The aluminum-clad doors and windows, soldier course headers on the windows, and the modern brick cornice on the bay are steps in the right direction, and we suggested several changes. However, the Board approved the concept with the recommendation that the massing of the elevator tower on the north elevation be reduced in height, and delegated final approval to staff.

**Consent calendar.** The following case, which CHRS supported, was approved on the consent calendar:

- **233 ½ 9th Street SE, HPA 19-388,** concept/addition on garage. ★

Interested in learning more about historic district designation?

Contact CHRS at [info@chrs.org](mailto:info@chrs.org).





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

## Mark Your Calendar!

### APRIL

~~22~~ Wednesday, 6:30 pm  
*POSTPONED UNTIL FALL*  
Preservation Café: “Call Box  
Revitalization Project: Part II.” East  
City Bookshop, 645 Pennsylvania  
Avenue SE. Details: (202) 543-0425,  
caphrs420@gmail.com.

### MAY

~~2~~ Saturday, 10:30 am–1 pm  
*MAY BE POSTPONED*  
Hill Center at the Old Naval Hospital:  
Annual volunteer “Expo.” Hill Center,  
921 Pennsylvania Ave SE. Details:  
hillcenterdc.org/event/volunteer-  
capitol-hill.

~~5~~ Tuesday, 7–8 pm  
*MAY BE POSTPONED*  
Village Voices: “Rising Tides: Climate  
Refugees in the Twenty-First Century.”  
Northeast Library, 330 7th Street NE.  
Details: info@capitolhillvillage.org.

~~10–11~~ Saturday & Sunday  
*RESCHEDULED*  
The House & Garden Tour, originally  
planned for Mother’s Day weekend has  
been rescheduled on Saturday, September  
12, 2020 from 4–7 pm and Sunday,  
September 13, 2020 from 1–5 p.m.

~~20~~ Wednesday, 6:30 pm  
*MAY BE POSTPONED*  
Preservation Café: “Lost Farms and  
Estates of Washington, D.C.” East City  
Bookshop, 645 Pennsylvania Avenue SE.  
Details: (202) 543-0425, info@chrs.org.

### JUNE

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

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

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

63rd Annual Capitol Hill House and Garden Tour  
September 12–13, 2020

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

NEW  
DATE!