



CHRS CELEBRATING 60 YEARS OF PRESERVATION

NEWS

www.chrs.org

November 2022

Dick Wolf Memorial Lecture to Resume

By Monte Edwards

The pandemic caused the Dick Wolf Memorial Lecture to be placed on hold for the past three years. The lecture had been an annual event since March of 2015. In March of 2023 we plan to resume the lectures. We are now seeking volunteers who can help re-establish the program.

Dick Wolf (1933–2012) was one of the District’s most ardent and effective visionaries. Since moving to Capitol Hill in 1964, he worked tirelessly and effectively on community planning (including the Comprehensive Plan), historic preservation and sound neighborhood development. He served on the CHRS Board for many years, often as President, and also served on the Committee of 100 of the Federal City.

His vision for Washington was of a great, world-class city that houses both the nation’s great institutions as well as families with young children; balances its appetite for massive growth with preservation of the character of its irreplaceable historic residential neighborhoods; provides top-flight neighborhood schools and safe streets for all families, visitors and workers; and integrates sound, sustained city planning principles, practices and administrative processes into all of the city’s business.

The Dick Wolf Memorial Lecture showcases excellence in research



IMAGE COURTESY ANDREW LIGHTMAN

and writing on urban planning and historic preservation in the District of Columbia by a student or intern. Papers and projects on historic preservation must concern a topic on a historic landmark, historic district, or site in DC. Papers and projects on urban planning must relate to urban planning issues in DC. The winner will deliver the presentation and receive a \$1,000 prize.

If you are interested in taking on a support or leadership role in the Dick Wolf Lecture program, please contact CHRS at caphrs420@gmail.com or leave a message at (202) 543-0425. ✧

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November Guided Walking Tours: Get Your Tickets Now!

By Elizabeth Nelson

Tickets for our guided walking tours on November 12 & 13 are now available through Eventbrite. The menu includes two past favorites and a brand new tour, developed and designed to appeal to the young and curious community members of Capitol Hill:

- *SE Capitol Hill Alleys*—a trip back in time to explore the residential and commercial uses (SOLD OUT).
- *Architecture of Capitol Hill*—learn about the rich variety and interplay of style and function in this historic neighborhood.

- *Family Tour*—a new one-hour tour focusing on what Capitol Hill would have been like 100 years ago. This tour is especially recommended for elementary school-aged children. If you know any non-members who might enjoy it, please invite them. It'll be a good opportunity to introduce our organization to those who may not be familiar with our range of interests and programs.

Find tour schedules, starting locations, other details and purchase instructions at chrs.org/guided-walking-tours-november-2022. ★



IMAGE COURTESY ELIZABETH NELSON

Another Mystery Photo—Can You Help?

We have been doing some fall housecleaning in our 420 10th Street SE office and have found some “mystery” photos. This one is particularly frustrating, because we can almost see the house number and the lineup of other homes to the left in the photo should be helpful. Do you recognize this location? Please send us your best guess at: caphrs420@gmail.com. ★



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: 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

House & Garden Tour 2023

By Angie Schmidt

Our annual Mother's Day House & Garden Tour starts months in advance by first selecting the Tour Chair. In a change from the past, this year the Chair will be plural as Fynnette Eaton, Jackie Krieger and I will be acting as a three-person Committee. We are very excited for this opportunity to both work together and to work to highlight the homes and gardens in our wonderful neighborhood to benefit CHRS and the community.

The next part of the process is selecting the 10–12 houses and/or gardens. The selection is based on several factors such as curb appeal, historic interest, pleasing garden, an intriguing collection, architectural uniqueness, antique furniture, rare plantings, and even zoning regulation conformance in a new addition.

We already have a small group of residents in the area between 7th and 11th Streets SE who have expressed interest in having their homes selected for 2023, but we are looking for more.

How about putting your home on the Tour? Certainly your home meets a couple of these points of interest. It doesn't have to be a 4-story

brownstone or a perfect historical specimen, cozy and family-oriented works too. Traditional rowhouse from the 1910s, a modern addition from this century, quaint antebellum house with wooden shingles—we consider all styles.

CHRS plays an important role in helping maintain the wonderful historic character of our neighborhood. With much-needed high-density housing being built all around us, CHRS' voice at DC's city council, zoning, and preservation and planning board meetings is important to remind the government and developers that what is attractive about Capitol Hill is its unique history, architecture and human scale. We appreciate Capitol Hill and want others to, too.

The House & Garden Tour is our main way to ensure we have the funds needed to continue protecting our fantastic village and educating the public about our community. Please consider supporting the CHRS mission by adding your home to the next Tour. Please contact the house tour committee at (202) 714-4502 or chrs2023tour@gmail.com. ★

Want to Support CHRS? Join the Communications Committee!

By Elizabeth Nelson

As the new Chair of the Communications Committee, I'm looking for folks who might like to pitch in to get the word out about our mission and activities. Scheduling may be tricky this close to the winter holidays, but I'm hoping to have a meeting of interested parties between now and the end of the year. If you aren't sure, just say "yes" for now; I expect that there will be many ways to assist (some of them "bite-sized"). Many hands make light work! Contact Elizabeth_knits@yahoo.com.

October Preservation Café: Color Harmonies for Your Home

By Christine Mullins

What do you need to know about color when choosing paint colors for the interior and exterior of your home? Linda H. Bassert, design principal for Masterworks Window Fashions and Design, shared her expertise with CHRS members during the Preservation Café on October 18.

Bassert began her presentation by discussing basic color terminology. She described three key elements of color you need to get right to create the mood you would like to pervade your home: hue, value, and chroma.

Hue refers to the basic color family names, such as those we find in a basic box of crayons. We can go lighter, brighter, deeper, and more subdued, but we keep the same basic family name (an exception is light red which we call pink). The other aspect of hue is whether the color is warm or cool. Bassert said this distinction can be confusing because hue has nothing to do with emotion—it refers to whether a color leans toward or has elements of yellow (warm colors) or blue (cool colors).

A second aspect of color is its **value** which refers to where it stands between white and black. For someone who has color perception challenges (color blindness), value is going to be more important since they cannot see the nuances of hue, but they can usually perceive color value or contrasting colors. Think of value as the contrasting colors you see in moving water due to the light that shines on the water.

Bassert said designers recommend using different color values to establish a sense of rhythmic flow as you move from room to room in your house. Rather than use the same color

throughout your house, think about using different values in each room which you adjust depending on the amount of available light.

She noted that individuals often have different perceptions of what is “light” or “dark” based on their experiences. For example, a Scandinavian client might describe a shade of white as “dark” because they are used to using so many light colors in their houses. However, young people in the United States tend to like deeper or darker colors because that is what they are accustomed to. Bassert mentioned that value and contrast can be important in house exteriors.

Chroma, the third aspect of color, refers to how much gray is in a color. Higher chroma colors are brighter. Lower chroma means more gray, less neon. So you would want higher chroma colors in a party space, and lower chroma, calmer colors in a room where you sleep. But keep in mind that adding too much gray can make a room seem sad and dreary.

Bassert noted that children tend to handle glare and bright colors better than adults. These colors are more stimulating and high energy and marketers tend to use them to attract children to toys and educational materials.

One reason it can be difficult to match colors is that paint is formed by using RGB colors which are based on the primary pigments red, green, and blue which is carried by light; but printers use CMYK colors which are based on the primary pigments cyan (aqua), magenta, yellow, and the key color (black). So you need to be careful when looking at colors on a computer screen!

Thank You, CHRS Supporters!

CHRS wishes to thank the following donors for their invaluable support:

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Sampling Paint Colors

The background, or colors that surround a color, affects how we perceive it. Bassert used sample boards to demonstrate how this works and offered more examples on how this effect can dramatically impact housing exteriors later in the presentation.

Bassert said the best way to sample potential paint colors is to create a sample board—by painting a large foam board with two coats of the paint color we are considering. Foam board is better than poster board because it will reflect the light and colors of your paint sample in the same way drywall and plaster do.

Place your sample board in the room you plan to paint knowing it will appear differently based on any adjacent colors—such as the colors in any tile, countertops, flooring, rugs, and furniture upholstery. The paint color will also seem to change according to the amount of light that hits the sample board from an open window or light bulb, as the light travels through the room from morning to night. Place your sample board on the lightest and darkest walls in the room to see how the color looks in each part of the room.

Bassert said designers say that colors are “friends” of their neighbors and “lovers” of their opposites. This means that colors that oppose each other on the color wheel “fire” each other up so they appear stronger and brighter. For example, purple and yellow create a lot of energy. Blues make oranges look more orange, and vice versa.

During the second part of her presentation, Bassert showcased several examples of houses she has worked on with clients on Capitol Hill and in other parts of the DMV. She pointed out several designer tips, architectural considerations, and demonstrated how you might match the colors of your exterior house with your neighbors.

For example, white paint can look extremely bright on housing exteriors due to the glare of natural light outside—today we have so many more shades of white to use for our ceilings and exteriors. She also pointed to some shades of black we might use to paint our Capitol Hill wrought iron railings.

Please visit the CHRS website to see the colorful examples of the colors Bassert used to create the spectacular effects her clients desired for their homes at: chrs.org/color-harmonies-4-home-pc. ★

Our CHRS Preservation Cafés are free to CHRS members and non members.

Please join us for our November Preservation Café: “Ghosts of Capitol Hill” online on November 15 at 6:30 pm. More information and the presentation link at chrs.org.

THANK YOU FROM THE CAPITOL HILL RESTORATION SOCIETY TO OUR GUESTS AT HOUSE EXPO 2022

AND TO THE PARTICIPATING HOME SERVICE EXHIBITORS:

Abay Iron & Metal Works	CUSTOM IRONWORK
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Capitol Hill Village	AGE-FRIENDLY COMMUNITY
Chemstrip Refinishing	REFINISH METAL/WOOD
Chuck Burger/ Coldwell Banker	REAL ESTATE
Cole Roof Systems	ROOFING
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Contact information for exhibitors is available
on our website at chrs.org/house-expo-2022/



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

Mark Your Calendar!

Please check website for current information—cancellations or postponements will be posted as they are known.

NOVEMBER

7 Monday, 6:30 pm
Historic Preservation Committee meeting, 420 10th Street SE, first floor conference room. Chair: Beth Purcell, (202) 544-0178.

7 Monday, 7:30 pm
Overbeck Lecture: “William Costin’s Remarkable Story,” Hill Center, 921 Pennsylvania Avenue SE. Free admission; reservation required. Reserve through the Hill Center at: hillcenterdc.org/event/overbeck-lecture-william-costins-life-in-early-capitol-hill or call (202) 549-4172.

12–13 Saturday–Sunday
Guided Walking Tours: Tickets on sale now! Details: chrs.org/guided-walking-tours-november-2022.

15 Tuesday, 6:30 pm
Preservation Café: “Ghosts of Capitol Hill” with Justine Bello. Hosted on Zoom. Details and Zoom link: chrs.org/architectural-ghosts-pc.

16 Wednesday, 6 pm
CHRS Board of Directors meeting, Second floor mezzanine of the Northeast Library, 330 7th Street NE.

17 Thursday, 7:30 pm
Zoning Committee Meeting, Kirby House, 420 10th Street SE. Co-Chairs: Beth Hague, (202) 714-9523, and Nick Alberti.



CHRS CELEBRATING 60 YEARS OF PRESERVATION

DECEMBER

5 Monday, 6:30 pm
Historic Preservation Committee meeting, 420 10th Street SE, first floor conference room. Chair: Beth Purcell, (202) 544-0178.

15 Thursday, 7:30 pm
Zoning Committee Meeting, Kirby House, 420 10th Street SE. Co-Chairs: Beth Hague, (202) 714-9523, and Nick Alberti.

21 Wednesday, 6 pm
CHRS Board of Directors meeting, CHRS Board of Directors meeting, Second floor mezzanine of the Northeast Library, 330 7th Street NE.

Please consider joining CHRS! Annual membership is only \$35 and includes the newsletter, a set of historic guidelines, and early access to events, including our annual House and Garden Tour. Visit: chrs.org.