



photo by Jason Wgit

## 1903 Bungalow on Brookville Road Is Setting for Spring Gala

On Sunday, May 3 the Chevy Chase Historical Society held its annual Spring Gala at the residence of Thomas Monahan and Sharon Marcil at 7401 Brookville Road. The house is an exceptional example of a Craftsman style bungalow, situated on a spacious lot in Section Five of Chevy Chase.

The property originally was part of the No Gain estate. It was included in a 5.07 acre parcel purchased for five hundred dollars by Leonard and Elizabeth Bradshaw in 1902. The original driveway entrance on Brookville Road is flanked by stone walls punctuated with stone piers, one of which bears a marker that faces the road and reads "End Lane." The name refers to the fact that, until the late 1930s, the house marked the northern limit of development in the Chevy Chase area.

In 2008, the current owners completed an extensive renovation and addition. Care was taken to preserve the historical context and architectural vernacular of the home.

CCHS is grateful to Mr. Monahan and Ms. Marcil for opening their home to the society and its guests. We thank Evelyn Gerson, Director of our Archive and Research Center, for using material provided by the architect to create an exhibit about the property, and for re-mounting our Brookville Road exhibit, both of which were displayed at the gala. And, our (vintage) hats are off to Gala Chair Kirsten Williams and her committee whose talent and dedication ensured a glorious success.

*(Additional gala coverage on pages 4 and 5.)*



# CHEVY CHASE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P.O. Box 15145  
CHEVY CHASE, MARYLAND 20825

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Open 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.  
on Wednesday and by appointment.

The Chevy Chase Historical Society collects, records, interprets and shares materials relating to the history of Chevy Chase, Maryland, one of America's first streetcar suburbs. Founded in 1981, the nonprofit volunteer organization provides resources for historical research and sponsors a variety of programs and activities to foster knowledge and appreciation of the community's history.

## Recent Acquisitions

"Recent Acquisitions" is a regular feature in the newsletter, describing documents and other items acquired for the society's Archive and Research Center.

## Donations

1. Online donation from Flickr.com of three photographs of Rossdhu Castle and Gate, 3207 Woodbine Street, circa 1940s. Donated by Francis DiBona.
2. Photograph of James Coeburn's great-grandfather, Reinhold Springarth, a streetcar conductor on a Chevy Chase streetcar, circa 1905, and another photo of Springarth serving as Game Warden for the area. Donated by Mr. Coeburn.
3. Publication, *Chevy Chase Yesterday and Today*, written by students of Marie M. Gerardi at Rosemary School, circa 1939. Visit the CCHS online archive to read a full transcription. Donated by Kitty Johnson.
4. Book by Dr. David Fairchild, *The World was My Garden*. Donated by Eleanor Ford.
5. Historian and author William Offutt's latest book, *Seth*, a story set in Montgomery County. Donated by Mr. Offutt.
6. Photograph of Clean Drinking Manor with various members of the Jones family on the front porch, circa 1890. Donated by Linda Vought.

## Staff Acquisitions

1. Postcard from Bermuda addressed to Arthur Metcalf, 4332 Leland Street, June 1960.
2. Three Minnie E. Brooke postcards.
3. Postcard from Illinois addressed to Edith Betts, 6508 Brookville Road, June 1942.
4. Nineteenth century tinted engraving of the Battle of Chevy Chase.
5. *Life Magazine*, April 26, 1943, with a cover story about Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School student and "Jango" Co-chairman, Helen Almy.
6. Chevy Chase Presbyterian Pamphlet, *Celebrating a Century -- Framing Our Future*, published in 2008.
7. Pamphlet, *Manual for Acolytes*, published by All Saints' Church, 1959.
8. Advertisement for J.H. Emerson Co., featuring a photograph of the Bethesda-Chevy Chase First Aid Corp, from *Fire Engineering Journal*, April 1943.

To explore these items in detail, visit the CCHS online digital archive at [www.chevyCHASEhistory.org](http://www.chevyCHASEhistory.org)

## History-Go-Round: “In Their Steps,” Underground Railroad Walking Tour of Rockville



**Anthony Cohen lectures on Underground Railroad**

Anthony Cohen, who delivered the society’s Spring Lecture about the Underground Railroad, led a fascinating tour of Underground Railroad sites in Rockville for CCHS’s History-Go-Round (HGR) event on Saturday March 21.

Rockville was a major starting point on the Underground Railroad, the secret escape route for runaway slaves that shuttled local freedom-seekers along lines of escape to Philadelphia and then to Canada. The tour focused on historic homes, sites, and artifacts of 1850s Rockville that remain to illustrate the story.

HGR participants heard about Rockville resident Josiah Henson, the model for “Tom” in the novel *Uncle Tom’s Cabin*; Ann Maria Weems, who escaped to Canada dressed as a boy; a church whose basement is rumored to have been a hiding place for slaves; and other Rockville people and places from the days of slavery through the Civil War.

The “tourists” said they were impressed with Mr. Cohen’s leadership of the event, particularly with his demeanor. Although his ancestors were runaway slaves, Cohen was able to tell the story to present day listeners in a remarkable manner, holding himself out as an example of forgiveness and reconciliation. He is welcomed as a member of the Sons of the Confederacy and supports efforts by people and organizations on all sides of this history to tell their stories.

This special tour was developed by the National Park Service’s “Network to Freedom” program, and was designed through collaboration among the National Park Service, the City of Rockville, Peerless Rockville, and The Menare Foundation, Inc.

## Volunteer Lara Cuellar-Amrod Enhances Society’s Online Archive

CCHS has been fortunate to have Lara Cuellar-Amrod volunteer for us this spring. Lara is a master’s degree candidate at the University of Maryland’s College of Information Studies, specializing in Archives/Records Management. Degree candidates must complete 120 hours of unpaid field study, and Lara wanted to volunteer for a smaller scale institution like CCHS.

Lara has focused on digitizing Maryland Home and Garden Tour papers spanning the period from 1970 to 1992, as well as two decades of CCHS Gala documents. The material in these records is important to our patrons because it contains numerous house histories written by CCHS volunteers over the years. Lara used a scanner with optical character reading (OCR) to convert “copy” from publications into digital text that, when entered into the society’s online database at [www.chevychasehistory.org](http://www.chevychasehistory.org), becomes searchable documents. She also transcribed documents when the originals were handwritten. Finally, she attached images of items from these collections so that patrons can see such things as tickets, promotional materials, and homes.

What has been the best part of this experience for Lara? “Honestly, the people. The staff is great and I got to learn a lot of new things,” she says. During her weeks with CCHS, though, Lara not only got hands-on archival experience: this California native also learned much about the Chevy Chase community.



**CCHS volunteer Lara Cuellar-Amrod**

Lara expects to graduate this May, to travel during the summer, and then to work at the National Public Broadcasting Archives at the University of Maryland. CCHS congratulates Lara on the award of her degree, and thanks her for all of her hard work.



**"High hats" Alice and Jherry Breed welcome guests**



**Pianist Greg Small, with John Montgomery, Wilson Kranke, John Elliott, and Oliver Thomas**



**Hosts Thomas Monahan, Sharon Marcil, Priscilla Sheehan, and Kirsten Williams**



**Bright lights, big party: enter Eugene and Sonya Flanagan**



**Jon Newhard, David Glynn, Ramona and Tom Gann, and Kirsten Williams**

## Music, Blossoms Enliven Society's 2

Cloudy weather was no match for the celebration on Sunday, May 3. Almost 200 society members enjoyed festive mingling and dining among the flowers in the ballroom of the historic, recently renovated Chevy Chase Club. Hosts Thomas Monahan and Sharon Marcil welcomed guests to the gathering. Flower arrangements by Deborah Glynn added color and fragrance to the ambience. The evening was held at the Ferme Restaurant, and his staff once again provided excellent service, which was followed by delicious desserts prepared by Deborah Glynn. In a pre-dinner ceremony, the pianist thanked the hosts for their hospitality and support.



**John Metz, Martha Jones, and Julie Davis**



**Henry Ravenel makes his point to Peter Kilborn (l) and Wilson Kranke (r)**



**Assembled through**



as Monahan and  
il, President Mary  
and Gala Chair  
liams "present"



Champagne in the portico



Alex Caffey (l) and Alex Weiner (r)  
anticipate dessert

## oms, and Bubbly s 2009 Spring Gala

h for the sparkle of CCHS' Spring Gala  
00 society members and guests enjoyed  
ong the beautifully appointed rooms  
ed Craftsman bungalow belonging to  
on Marcil. Pianist Greg Small, doctoral  
aryland, sent melodies wafting through  
ats by CCHS board member Helene Sacks  
e ambiance. Alain Roussel, owner of La  
nce again provided a delectable supper,  
desserts coordinated by CCHS volunteer  
remony, society President Mary Sheehan  
ality and our guests for their continued



Marilyn Montgomery,  
Sue and Alaster MacDonald,  
Tom Leonhardt, and Sara Fry



Historical exhibits prove popular



ng at the ceremony



"Encore du champagne, messieurs?"



Flower coordinator Helene Sacks  
and Tony Marra

## Chevy Chase Voices

*"Chevy Chase Voices" is a regular feature in the newsletter, containing excerpts from the oral histories of Chevy Chase residents that the society has taken and transcribed as part of its Oral History Project. It highlights interesting aspects of the community's history in order to educate readers and to encourage them to further explore the wealth of information contained in the oral history transcriptions at the CCHS Archive and Research Center.*

### "This was declared a federal disaster area"

Twenty years ago, late on June 14, 1989, the Chevy Chase-Bethesda area suddenly was struck by a severe wind storm. The storm's path was only about a mile wide, yet its "down bursts" had the effect of falling bombs, radiating walls of wind outward in concentric patterns. Its fury and the shock and devastation it left in its wake, are recalled in this excerpt from the oral history of a resident of Grafton Street in Chevy Chase Village.

**Patricia S. Baptiste:** Flag Day '89 . . . [m]y daughter [Laura Dana Baptiste] had just finished high school, and she had had her wisdom teeth removed and was waiting to go to Beach Week. . . . I was home with my son [Edward Paul Baptiste], who was in high school at the time, and my daughter, and the storm started up. You knew after about five minutes that there was something real different about this one because the wind got stronger and stronger. There is a rhythm [to] a storm . . . and it just got -- I just intuitively knew something was going to happen. So I shouted to the kids, who were in the house, "Get away from the windows!" [They] were on the first floor and I was on the second floor. You could just hear crashing noises and glass

breaking. Then I could hear their little voices — well, they were not so little — "There goes the car!" "Oh, the deck!"

It seemed to last a really long time . . . about 15 minutes. In the middle of it, a good friend of my son's, Michael McGary, whose family lived down on Cedar Parkway, had been biking back from the grocery store and he had a bag of apples. So, he realized about the time he [was] in front of our house that he really needed to get out of the road [and] came in . . . . I remember the bag of apples because it was still there a week later — Michael's apples.

Then when it all finished . . . the first thing I remember was that the huge magnolia tree in our front yard had disappeared . . . . Our house was fairly intact. We had terrific damage all around us. [The storm] was like fingers that went up some streets and not others. . . . It came from the west, so all of the trees on our neighbors' [properties] to the west fell in our yard, and our trees were going east. Everything, just like a house of cards, fell that way. . . .

[T]he magnolia tree . . . was knocked down when the ginkgo tree from 9 Grafton fell on top of it, so that was missing also. And then at the rear of the house another ginkgo tree -- huge pieces of it fell essentially on our [new] deck . . . . We had both of our cars parked in the driveway, and both of them were completely destroyed by the trees, [as was] a good bit of our garage. The front porch needed to be rebuilt . . . . We had debris up to the second floor windows . . . and then a lot of stuff moving up toward our next door neighbors' [house] at 5 Grafton. We lost a lot of the screening between the houses, which blew over. . . .

As a lawyer, I pulled out the insurance policy [laughter] and a bottle of wine and sat on the deck in this debris, and my daughter said, "How am I going to get to Beach Week?" You know, we have first things first! She was so desperate to get away that she took her suitcase and walked to Bradley [Lane] — there was no way that cars could get [into the neighborhood] — so she was able to go get a ride up at Bradley at Connecticut [Avenue], so she left. [W]e had no telephone and no power for a week, so we had no way to get in touch with her. But I said, "Just go! Because



there's not going to be much going on here that you ought to hang around for."

My husband was out of town and coming in that night, and I needed to get word to him that we were safe, really. . . . It would have been difficult actually to walk to the house. No cell phones then. It was really the Dark Ages, wasn't it? You didn't have to worry about the internet being out. We did [get] word to him that everyone was safe, but that there had been a lot of damage.

Then it was just a question of digging out . . . from under all the debris, trying to pull it off the lawn, and off the house and off the cars. It really commenced sort of a blurred few days of heavy yard work, trying to find anybody who would be available to start cutting logs. . . . West Virginia descended on the area, and we were glad to have them here. Gradually we dug our way out. Our two totaled cars were towed away, and life got back to semi-normal.

The big thing that happened as a result of the storm, to my mind: I had just taken over as the [first woman] chair of the [Village] Board of Managers in May . . . so, [the disaster was on my watch]. . . . The [Village] spent its entire treasury, all the money that it held in its reserves, that week to hire people . . . to start hauling the stuff away. . . .

Connie Morella . . . [Tried hard to get disaster relief but the federal officials in charge refused to agree]. . . . Jane [Lawton, Chair of the Town of Chevy Chase] . . . and I and the people in Somerset



**"Have you seen the car?"**



**Grafton Street and Cedar Parkway**

got together and got the [Montgomery] county government to reapply. . . . [T]his was declared a federal disaster area, and the FEMA people arrived. . . .

I was the FEMA officer and had to deal with . . . all of the Army Corps of Engineers people that FEMA sent in . . . . It was an enormous amount of paperwork to deal with . . . but we were reimbursed 75 percent of all of our expenses. . . .

We were fortunate in the village . . . the residents . . . had insurance. . . . The sad stories that you hear of . . . are [when individuals need direct disaster relief]. Here it was the government that needed it. That was an important distinction . . . . How fortunate we are that we could have a storm like this drop on us, and then within a week we've cleared everything out, and within two weeks the contractors are in making the repairs, and the insurance is paying for it, and it's done. It was a disaster, but it was visited on a community that's blessed with resources. I guess that's the lesson that I took away from it.

From the oral history of Patricia S. Baptiste,  
lawyer and former Chair of the Chevy Chase Village  
Board of Managers,  
taken by Marcia McCann and Julie Thomas  
on June 13, 2008

## MYSTERY!

*"Mystery!" is a regular feature of the newsletter. We invite all sleuths to help CCHS identify the subjects of "mystery" photographs contained in the society's photographic collection.*

CCHS needs help identifying the addresses for the two houses pictured here. If you know them, please email the society at [info@chevyCHASEhistory.org](mailto:info@chevyCHASEhistory.org) or call us at (301) 656-6141. The first person to provide the addresses wins a package of CCHS postcards!



Want another way to win? Visit [www.chevyCHASEhistory.org](http://www.chevyCHASEhistory.org) and search the digital archive using the keyword "unidentified" to see many more images needing identification, and email your answers.

Many readers contacted us about the identities of the Winter 2009 issue's mystery homes. Congratulations to Margie Leachman for identifying the home on the left as 4118 Woodbine Street and to Elizabeth Farrell for letting us know that the house on the right was 104 Oxford Street.



CHEVY CHASE  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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