



## Chevy Chase Historical Society

Newsletter

Fall 2006

### 25th Anniversary Fall Program to Feature Screening of Society's Documentary on Chevy Chase History, Conversation with Producers

Imagine watching a new Steven Spielberg movie, with Spielberg himself telling you, before the theatre goes dark, about behind-the-scenes events during filming as well as fun features to look for. On a local scale, that is what will happen at the Chevy Chase Historical Society's Fall Program on Wednesday, November 15, at 7:30 p.m., at the Leland Community Center, 4301 Willow Lane, in the Town of Chevy Chase.

Award winning videographer Martin Huberman and Chevy Chase resident Mary Anne Hoffman, who co-produced the society's new documentary film, "Chevy Chase, Maryland: A Streetcar to Home," will present the program. Huberman is president of VideoArt Productions, and has created award winning videos for some of the nation's top museums and historical groups, including Winterthur, the U.S. Department of State Diplomatic Reception Rooms, and the National Portrait Gallery. He is a graduate of Landon School and Columbia School of Journalism. Hoffman directed communications for the American Automobile Association, Amtrak, and The Walt Disney Company during her 30 year communications career. She now is a licensed tour guide specializing in historic sites and architecture.

Work on the film began in November 2005. Initially, the CCHS planning committee envisioned a 15 minute film on Chevy Chase's 113 year history. Yet, recalls Hoffman, "Once we started brainstorming, it quickly became clear that a 15 minute video wouldn't be long enough to scratch the surface of all the col-

orful history we wanted to cover. So we began planning a 30 minute production."

At the November 15 program, Hoffman will describe the search for a professional production firm and why the committee selected VideoArt Productions. She sums up VideoArt's appeal in

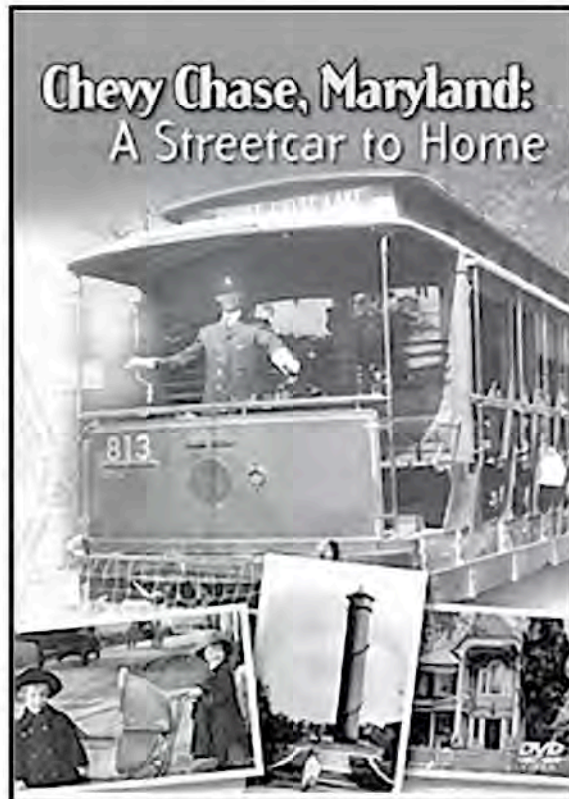
three words: the Huberman Method. Prior to the screening of the film, she and Huberman will prepare the audience to identify ways that the latter's "method" brings the Chevy Chase story to life.

Hoffman and Huberman also will explain how diverse elements contribute to the production. In addition to the contemporary video footage, these include voiceovers by professional actors, original music, and, to complement the use of photos from CCHS' archival collection, images from other, world renowned photo archives. After the screening, the co-producers will answer audience questions.

"Chevy Chase, Maryland: A Streetcar to Home" will be available for sale in DVD format at the program. An order form also is enclosed in this newsletter. The documentary is the

society's gift to the community as part of the celebration of the organization's 25th anniversary year.

A brief business meeting will precede the program. Light refreshments will be served. Please call Marilyn Montgomery at (301) 656-2295 with any questions.



Chevy Chase Historical Society  
Newsletter



Chevy Chase Historical Society  
Post Office Box 15145  
Chevy Chase, MD 20825-5145

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Fax: 301-656-5114  
E-mail: chevychasehistory@msn.com  
Open 1:00 to 5:00 p.m.  
on Tuesdays and by appointment.

The Chevy Chase Historical Society is a nonprofit organization founded in 1981 to discover, record, and preserve the history of the Maryland and Washington neighborhoods known as Chevy Chase.

Recent Acquisitions

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

Donations

1. A receipt from the Chevy Chase Dairy, 1948. Donated by Eleanor Ford.
2. From Section 3 of Chevy Chase: News and Views, 1963-1993; Council meeting notes, 1942-1993.
3. Research paper on "Woodend." Donated by Louis D. DeMouy.
4. From the Town of Chevy Chase: minutes and correspondence, 1926, 1928, 1929, and 1930.
5. Blueprints, building permit, and other papers relating to 3709 Northampton Street. Donated by Zena Pisarko.
6. Four maps. Donated by Joe Valachovic.
7. "Tell Me the Stories of Jesus," a book describing the stained glass windows in the Chevy Chase United Methodist Church. Donated by Carol Powell on behalf of the church.
8. PTA records and school directories from Chevy Chase Elementary School, Leland Junior High School, and Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School. Donated by Jean Linehan.
9. Minnie Brooke postcard. Donated by Shelly Brunner.

Purchases

1. Montgomery County Business Directory, 1920.
2. Three Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School Pinetree yearbooks, from 1967, 1968, and 1969.
3. 10 Minnie Brooke postcards used in exhibits for the CCHS Heritage Fair on October 7, 2006.
4. Transfer ticket from the District of Columbia Transit Company, dated September 18, 1944.

Newly Completed Oral History

William Sharon Farr, Jr.



Plug nickels discovered at the CCHS Heritage Fair  
(coverage pages 4 and 5)

## The Chevy Chase Historical Society warmly thanks the following supporters who made major donations to our 25th Anniversary celebrations

*Mr. and Mrs. John Barron, Jr.  
Mr. and Mrs. Justin Bausch  
Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Best  
Shelly and Thomas Brunner  
Chevy Chase Bank  
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Mr. and Mrs. John Tuohey  
The Village of Martin's Additions  
Peter Wellington*



Mary Anne Tuohey, advisor to the CCHS Board, poses with the VideoArt Productions crew after sharing her memories of life in Chevy Chase for the society's new documentary to be screened at the Nov. 15 Fall Meeting.

VideoArt Productions president Martin Huberman, center, will join CCHS' "other" Mary Anne—documentary co-producer Mary Anne Hoffman—to present the Fall Meeting program on the making of the documentary. on Nov. 15. The new film will be shown after the co-producers' remarks.



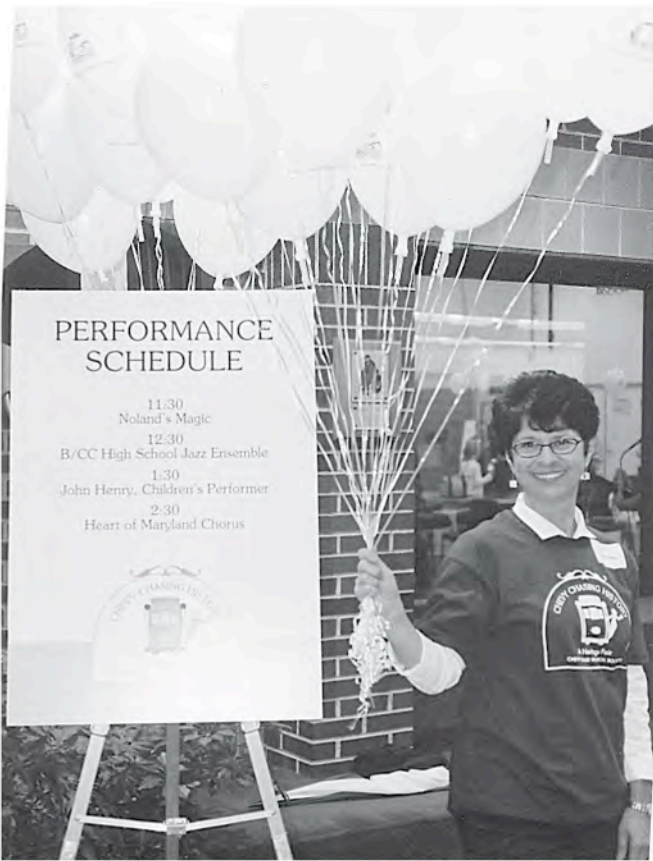
A pro from the VideoArt productions crew does CCHS Archive Chair Joan Marsh's make-up before her interview for the documentary.

# “A Wonder Heritage Fair Celebrate

Hundreds of area residents celebrated neighborhood history at “Chevy Chasing History—A Heritage Fair,” a fun-and-fact-filled family event on Saturday, October 7 at the Leland Community Center in Chevy Chase, Maryland. Despite rainy weather, the bustling stream of 700 visitors included elected officials, community dignitaries, enthusiastic long time residents, and young families with children.

CCHS sponsored the fair in partnership with the Leland Center. The fair offered activities for children and adults alike, focusing on Chevy Chase and its history, which dates from the late 1800s. The first such event produced by CCHS, the no-admission fair was a gift to the community during 2006, the society’s 25th anniversary year. Shelly Brunner was the dynamic Chair of the event, assisted by Evelyn Gerson, Director of the CCHS Archive and Research Center, and a tireless group of volunteers.

Among the wide range of activities offered were guided architectural tours of Chevy Chase in an old time trolley, children’s activities that involved ties to the past, interactive historical displays, an information booth about CCHS and its activities, and booths by the National Capital Trolley Museum and the Chevy Chase Library. The fair also featured such popular performers as the Heart of Maryland Chorus, Noland’s Magic, the Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School Jazz Ensemble, and chil-



Fair Chairman Shelly Brunner ready to greet the crowds



The B.C.C. Jazz Ensemble had the crowd jumpin’



The most popular guy at the fair—FREE ice cream



Children dancing to John Henry's songs

# ful Day!"

## Chevy Chase History

en's entertainer John Henry. The neighborhood's very own Chevy Chase rose, a rare dark pink climber, was on sale. A variety of refreshments also were available.

f special interest was the first public screening of CCHS' new DVD documenting the neighborhood's colorful history, and titled "Chevy Chase, Maryland: A Streetcar to Home." The DVD as shown throughout the day, was on sale at the fair, and is available by order from CCHS (*see enclosed order form*).

pecial thanks goes to the Leland Center and its staff for the use of its spacious facility and its partnership in the event. For their assistance, CCHS also thanks the Chevy Chase municipalities of Chevy Chase Village, The Village of Martin's Additions, Section 3 of the Village of Chevy Chase, Section 5 of the Village of Chevy Chase, and the Town of Chevy Chase. In addition, CCHS appreciates the generous support from program advertisers and sponsors.

ongratulations to the fair's door prize winners: Mr. William Davis for the New Membership Drawing, and Attendance Drawing winners Ms. Minh Le and Ms. Margaret Brant.

verheard said by a small child to her father as they were leaving the fair: "Thank you, Daddy, for a wonderful day!"



Architectural trolley tours proved very popular



Two "Wheel of History" prize winners



Resident Ann McClosky enjoyed the history exhibits

Among the many tireless volunteers were, *front, l-r:* Frances Stickles and Helen Secrest, and *rear, l-r:* Joan Marsh and display maker Evelyn Gerson



Childrens' performer John Henry was a hit.



## We Will Miss Flora Gill Jacobs



Flora Gill Jacobs, an internationally known writer, collector, and historian of antique dolls' houses and other miniature collectibles, died of congestive heart failure on May 31 at Sibley Memorial Hospital. She was 87. For more than six decades, Mrs. Jacobs researched, collected, and preserved a vast collection of miniature antiques and dolls' houses, and became world renowned for her work. For nearly three decades she served as the museum director of the Washington Dolls' House & Toy Museum, which she founded to share her collection with the public. As one of the nation's foremost authorities on antique dolls' houses, she wrote extensively and authored six books chronicling the history of dolls' houses. She was a founding member, and lifetime supporter, of CCHS.

Mrs. Jacobs was born in Washington, DC in 1918 and was educated at John Eaton Elementary School, Alice Deal Junior High School, Western High School, and The George Washington University. She began writing as a schoolgirl, covering sports for the *Alice Deal Star*. While in college she wrote movie reviews for the now defunct *Washington Times-Herald*. At 23, she became Woman's Page and Fashion Editor at *The Times-Herald*. Later she became one of three general assignment reporters for *The Washington Post*. She resigned from the *Post* to pursue her passion to write a book about dolls' houses, which she became fascinated with as a child and began collecting as a young adult in the 1940s.

The expansive nature of Mrs. Jacobs' collection and the interest it sparked among friends and neighbors prompted her to open the Washington Dolls' House & Toy Museum in 1975, at 5236 44th Street, NW. Her collection attracted visitors from around the world. Her wish to share the joys of her collection with others, and the unwavering support and dedication of her husband, Washington attorney Ephraim Jacobs, in this endeavor, is what kept the museum open for its nearly 30 years. During this time the museum was closed only twice, and Mrs. Jacobs usually could be found there six days a week.

The museum was a rarity in that it was a privately held museum providing an important public function of education and preservation. Its collection featured exhibits of items from around the world but focused on "Americana," boasting many rare and valuable items, like Reed's 1884 miniature of the U.S. Capitol, Crandall's 1867 Mount Vernon, and Shoenhut's "Teddy Roosevelt on Safari." Mrs. Jacobs' strict attention to historical detail required that everything in an exhibit "be of the right vintage, scale and style." The closing of the museum in 2004 and the subsequent auctioning off of much of its contents was difficult for Mrs. Jacobs, who remarked that, "It's like saying goodbye to good friends."

Mrs. Jacobs authored *A History of Dolls' Houses* (1953, 1965), *A Book of Dolls and Doll Houses* (1967), *Dolls' Houses in America* (1974), and *Victorian Dolls' Houses and Their Furnishings* (1978). Between 1958 and 1975, she also wrote four children's books, *The Doll House Mystery*, *The Toy Shop Mystery*, *The Haunted Birdhouse*, and *A World of Doll Houses*. Exhibits in the museum inspired the first two of these books.

After closing the museum, Mrs. Jacobs continued to write and to add to her private collection in Chevy Chase, where she lived in a meticulously restored 1895 Victorian home. Her most recent book, *The Small World of Antique Dolls' Houses*, was published last year. The second printing of this book went to press the day of her death—a wonderful tribute to her successful career.



The Friends Of Chevy Chase Circle  
Seek Contributions to Maintain Plantings

Since the early 90s, The Friends of Chevy Chase Circle, a nonprofit organization operating under the “umbrella” of CCHS, has worked with the National Park Service to maintain and beautify our historic landmark. Last year, the Friends purchased 2,000 red tulip bulbs, which the Park Service planted around the fountain. The Friends received many compliments and decided to repeat the purchase this year. Since the tulips cost approximately \$500 per annual planting, which would overly burden the Friends treasury, the organization is soliciting donations toward a goal of \$2,000. The funds will be used to create an endowment that will enable the Friends to purchase tulips every year.

We are pleased that the Newlands fountain and the plantings provide a lovely visual display to community residents and others who drive around the circle. The Park Service is doing a wonderful job of preserving and maintaining this gateway to the District. If you would like to contribute to our continued beautification with tulip plantings, your tax deductible donation will be most appreciated. Checks can be made payable to The Friends of Chevy Chase Circle and sent to 6810 Delaware Street, Chevy Chase, Md. 20815.

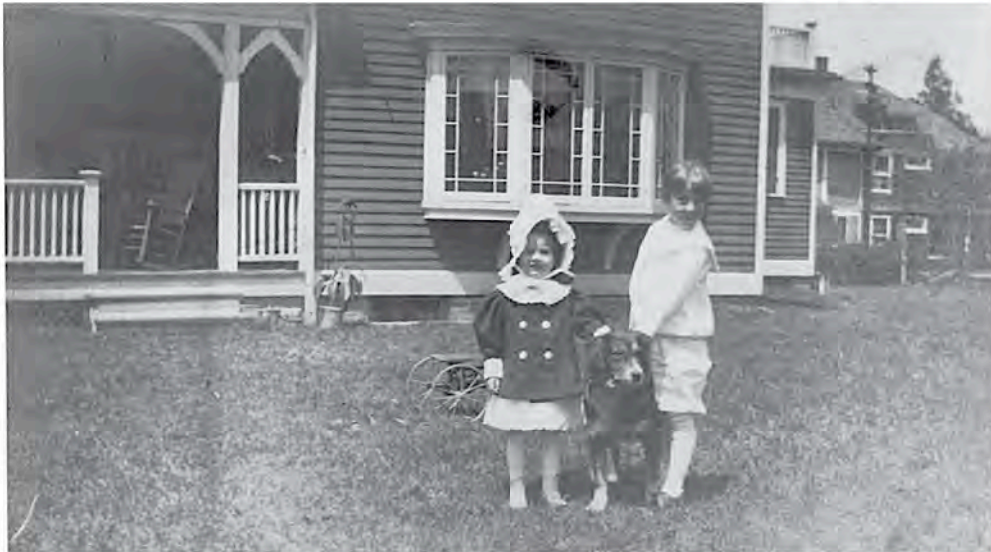
**Garden Club of Chevy Chase  
Celebrates Its 80th Anniversary and CCHS’ 25th  
With Flower Show Commemorating Community’s History**



Members of CCHS and the Garden Club of Chevy Chase mingle amid the lovely, creative floral arrangements entered in the Garden Club’s judged flower show. CCHS provided historical references for the arrangements and for the horticultural specimens displayed. The club held the show at the Chevy Chase Village Hall on Friday and Saturday, October 20 and 21, in honor of the club’s 80th anniversary and the 25th anniversary of the historical society.

# MYSTERY!

*This is the second appearance of this new feature in the newsletter. We invite all sleuths to help CCHS identify the subjects of "mystery" photographs contained in the society's photographic collection.*



Do you recognize these children and this dog? Do the houses in the background look familiar? If so, please contact the CCHS office at (301) 656-6141 with your clues, or email them to us at [chevychasehistory@msn.com](mailto:chevychasehistory@msn.com).

Answer to Spring 2006 Newsletter's mystery photo:

The home featured in the advertisement has the present address of 3777 Oliver Street, NW, DC. The clue that helped to identify it was the tree supports in the picture. Young trees planted in Maryland did not have the wooden braces placed on those planted in DC. Several people contacted us, but Mary Rowse and Robert Truax did so simultaneously. Thanks to all who participated!



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