



Spring Gala Celebrates Restoration of Historic Chevy Chase Property



North facade of The Folly

One of the most historic homes in Chevy Chase was the spectacular scene of the Chevy Chase Historical Society's 2023 Spring Gala on April 23. Gala host Adrienne Arsht graciously welcomed the Society's guests to her recently restored home overlooking Chevy Chase Circle. She has named the property The Folly.

Guests enjoyed the spacious, beautifully appointed and art-filled interior of the mansion, as well as the picturesque grounds, the lily pond, and the fanciful new Chinese Pavilion. Read more about the history and restoration of this historic home on pages 3-4.

During the hour prior to the start of the party, Pinnacle Sponsors of the Gala were treated to a guided tour of the mansion led by Ms. Arsht's interior designer, Tom Bendt, who came from Miami for the occasion.

CCHS Archive Director Renata Lisowski and Vice President Carolyn Greis produced an informative exhibit on the history of the Gala house and its occupants over the past 130 years. They also produced a commemorative brochure for guests summarizing the history of this distinctive property.

CCHS President Susan Bollendorf made brief remarks, welcoming guests to the party and thanking them for their support of CCHS. She then thanked Ms. Arsht for her exceptional hospitality and presented her with a crystal plaque commemorating the event. Ms. Arsht also spoke, welcoming guests and expressing how happy she is to have joined the Chevy Chase community.

The creative team from La Ferme Restaurant served a sumptuous buffet dinner. Dining tables surrounded the lily pond, where guests enjoyed music provided by a keyboard and bass duo in the Chinese Pavilion. Long time CCHS volunteer Bill Mills and professional photographer Wendy Merriman memorialized the event in photos, including those in this Newsletter.

CCHS is indebted to Gala Co-chairs Mary Sheehan and Alison Mandell and their dedicated Gala Committee for orchestrating this festive and memorable evening. Above all, we warmly thank the Sponsors and Friends of the Gala, and all who attended, for their support of CCHS and its mission.



South facade of The Folly



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 Nominations.....Open
 Oral Histories.....Open
 Technology.....Renata Lisowski

Archive and Research Center

Renata Lisowski, Director

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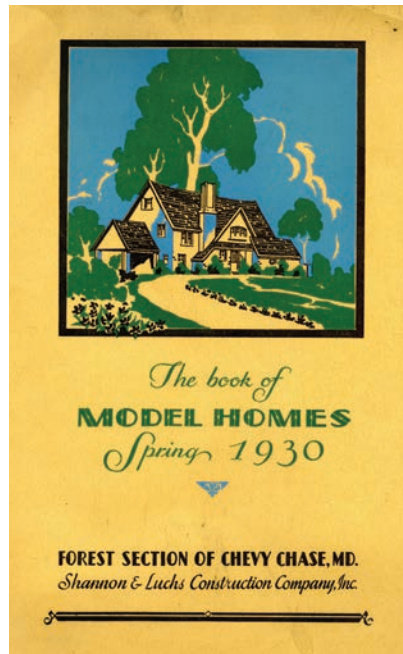
Open 10 a.m. to 12 noon, and 1 to 3 p.m.
 on Tuesday and by appointment

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. The organization provides resources for historical research and sponsors a variety of programs and activities to foster knowledge and appreciation of the community’s history.

Chevy Chase Historical Society is supported in part by funding from the Montgomery County Government and the Arts & Humanities Council of Montgomery County.

Recent Acquisitions

“Recent Acquisitions” is a regular feature in the Newsletter, describing documents and other items acquired for the CCHS Archive and Research Center



“The Book of Model Homes Spring 1930” was produced by Shannon & Luchs Construction Company, Inc. to advertise their new homes in the “Forest Section” of the Town of Chevy Chase. It was graciously donated to CCHS by Robert K. Bullard of Richland, Michigan, and was originally owned by Bullard’s aunt and uncle, who had been shopping for homes in Chevy Chase in the early 1930s.

Among the model homes shown in the book is 6502 Maple Ave. (now 7202) built by the Shannon & Luchs Construction Company in collaboration with Architect

Arthur B. Heaton, Engineers D. J. Howell & Son, and Landscape Architect Daniel C. Fahey, Jr. The model home was furnished by the Woodward & Lothrop Interior Decorating Studio.

The book advertises homes “built to fit your needs and priced to suit your purse” and advertises five new homes, each with six bedrooms and a bathroom, on Elm Street (4307, 4309, 4311, 4313, and 4403). The book also has advertisements for various companies throughout the area that provided products and services such as coal delivery, construction materials, plastering, roofing, intercom systems, gas and electric utilities, home furnishings and domestic appliances.

CCHS Hosts Home Archives Event

On Sunday, June 11, attendees at the Chevy Chase Village Hall were treated to Renata Lisowski’s presentation on “Preserving Your Precious Items at Home.” Lisowski, Director of the CCHS Archive and Research Center, discussed how best to store and maintain your photos, letters, and older books, along with how to handle and transfer these items to more appropriate archival storage options. One of the main take aways was that moisture and heat are the enemy of our precious home archives. Now is the time to take the items you want to preserve out of the unconditioned spaces in your home and make sure the items are stored in a non-airtight manner. Yes, that means taking your precious photos and papers out of the plastic storage bins you have stored in the attic or basement! If you missed this presentation, the recording is available on CCHS’s YouTube channel, which may be accessed via the CCHS website.

9 Chevy Chase Circle: A Brief History



South facade of 9 Chevy Chase Circle in 1909

The stately home at 9 Chevy Chase Circle has a long and fascinating history. A new chapter has now begun with the comprehensive restoration of the mansion and grounds by Adrienne Arsht, who purchased the property in 2020. Ms. Arsht generously hosted the CCHS 2023 Spring Gala on April 23. The following is a brief history of this property, which has been an architectural highlight of the Chevy Chase community for 130 years.

The mansion at 9 Chevy Chase Circle, one of the earliest houses in the new streetcar suburb of Chevy Chase, Maryland, was designed by distinguished architects Leon Dessez and Lindley Johnson. Constructed in the late Victorian shingle style, the house was completed in 1893. The first occupants of the house were one of the founders of Chevy Chase, Nevada Senator Francis G. Newlands, his second wife, Edith, and his three daughters from his first marriage, Edith, Janet, and Francis.

During the summers of 1897-1902, the house was leased to Lyman J. Gage, Secretary of the Treasury under Presidents William McKinley and Theodore Roosevelt. An April 17, 1897, article from the Washington Evening Star states that during Gage's stay at the house it had "a broad, comfortable appearance and covers a great deal of ground. The entrance faces north, but the living rooms enjoy all the charm of a southern exposure.... Over the threshold at the north entrance, is the vestibule opening into a broad hall, which, like country houses generally, is quite the feature. It has a great fireplace and is furnished with odd chairs and cozy corners."

In 1909, the property was purchased by William S. Corby, who lived there with his wife, Muriel, and their daughters, Justine and Eleanor. Corby named

the property "Ishpiming," a Chippewa word meaning "high ground." Corby was a well-known entrepreneur, manufacturer, inventor, financier, and founder of the Corby Baking Company. Using his inventions, which included high speed mixers and dough dividers that produced products of unprecedented uniform quality, his company revolutionized the commercial bread making industry.

Following his purchase of the property, Corby hired eminent local architect Arthur B. Heaton to do a complete redesign of the house and grounds. Heaton designed many houses, commercial buildings, and apartment buildings throughout the Washington, DC area. He served as the Supervising Architect of the Washington National Cathedral for 14 years. Heaton transformed the Corby's house into the Tudor Revival style that we see today. Among other things, he added a mahogany-paneled library, a Tyrolean breakfast room, a 30 foot high music room with an Aeolian pipe organ, a garage, and a new landscape plan with a reflecting pool. Heaton's major renovation of the house was substantially completed by the end of 1914, but he continued making smaller alterations to both the house and the grounds until the early 1930s.

The Corbys filled their home with fine art and antiques. They sponsored concerts in the music room and frequently hosted a variety of social events including musicals, parties, and club meetings. Their home was also the location of the 1936 wedding of their daughter, Justine, to Ivan Franges, an attaché at the Yugoslavian Embassy.

Following William Corby's death in 1935, his wife



Madrigal choir in the music room, circa 1970

continued to live in the house until her death in 1967. The end of the Corby era at 9 Chevy Chase Circle ushered in a period of multiple brief ownerships and an uncertain future. Following Mrs. Corby's death, the family leased the home to Dr. and Mrs. Alan K. Doan, who opened the house to cultural and civic events such as the Madrigal choir pictured here. After the deaths of the two Corby daughters in the mid-1970s, the property passed to the Protestant Episcopal Cathedral Foundation of the District of Columbia, which intended to operate a school in the house but was prevented from doing so by zoning restrictions.

In 1976, Dr. and Mrs. John E. Threlfall purchased the property and used it as a family residence until 1985, when they sold it to Robert Blitz, a real estate developer who made certain improvements to the house. After an unsuccessful effort to sell the house, Blitz announced his intention to subdivide the property and build four additional houses on it. In order to preserve the property intact, concerned Chevy Chase residents sought to have it designated as an Individual Site in the Montgomery County Master Plan for Historic Preservation, and such designation occurred in May 1989.

The house was sold in July 1989 to Burton C. Gray and his wife, Dorothy, who planned a major restoration of the house. Gray was a noted economist and businessman, and a co-founder of the Federalist Society. A mere three months later, however, Mr. Gray died and the family never moved into the house. In 1991, the house was purchased by John and Janet Cafaro of Youngstown, Ohio. The Cafaros did not live in the house, but they used it occasionally for political entertaining.

In 2020, the property was on the market once again. Despite the poor condition of the house and its overgrown grounds, the potential of this great property was apparent to businesswoman and philanthropist Adrienne Arsh, who has extensive experience restoring historic properties. She purchased the house, renamed it The Folly, and set in motion a painstaking effort to restore this architectural treasure to its former glory while updating it for contemporary living.

Ms. Arsh assembled a team of experienced professionals to revitalize the property. Among many other things, their work included a rehabilitation of the slate roof, restoration or replacement of historic windows, numerous interior improvements, and an overhaul of the landscaping. They also restored original finishes and removed non-original paint, exterior materials, and ornamentation. Ms. Arsh was awarded a 2021 Montgomery Preservation, Inc. Historic Preservation Award in recognition of her comprehensive restoration of the mansion.

Ms. Arsh has further enhanced the property with a new outdoor Chinese Pavilion that is modeled after the 1789 Pavilion at Cassan in L'Isle-Adam, France. It echoes the great European and American estates that included garden structures of dissimilar architectural elements to achieve a picturesque effect. The Folly's colorful, whimsical Chinese Pavilion sits at the south end of the property at the foot of the lily pond.

Thanks to Ms. Arsh's meticulous restoration, this iconic property stands again as the architectural centerpiece of the historic Chevy Chase community.



Pinnacle Sponsors assembled for a pre-Gala tour of The Folly



CCHS board members ready to welcome guests



Gala Co-Chair Mary Sheehan, Host Adrienne Arsht, Interior Designer Tom Bendt, and Gala Co-Chair Alison Mandell



Gala host Adrienne Arsht speaks to the assembled guests



Adrienne Arsht accepts a gift from CCHS President Susan Bollendorf



Kate Sheckells, Karen Jacob, and Melissa Brown study the house history exhibit



Do you prefer wine or champagne....



Tony Marra, Joseph Busch, and their hats



Tom Bendt surrounded by admirers



Robert and Rebecca Nichols with Naomi and Clarke Camper



Salim Saifee, Rajib Chanda, and Steven Grigoriou



Tom and Martha Hogan



Gala guests enjoy dinner around the lily pond



Beth and John Dugan



Marie O'Hara with her mother, Katherine Warren



The Chinese Pavilion



Wilson Krahnke and Alice Consolvo



Christine and Ben Gielow



Dedicated CCHS volunteer Bill Mills and his wife, Helen



Meg Stillman and her daughter, Laura Broenniman



Music making in the Chinese Pavilion



Nima Hendi, Helene Sacks, Myra and Mark Kovey, Stephen Sacks, and Jamie Hendi.



Gary and Jean Cohen with Jonathan and Linda Lyons



Steve and Marcella Trowern



Martha Dippell, John Sears, and Danny Korengold



Bill and Susan Kirby flanking Charlotte Jones-Carroll



Bridget O'Connor, Betsy Williams, Michael Banks, Nan Hartman, and Darcy Langdon



Christian Daw and Anthony Wilder



Guests enjoy La Ferme's lavish buffet dinner



Kate Fralin, Dana Rice, Lisa Resch, and Karen Kelly



Five fetching hats around the table



Renata and Spence Patterson bookending
Ian Tuttle and Gregory Quants



Julie Cannistra, Catherine Cecere, Jill Kolakowski,
Dima Fayyad, Sarah Brophy, and Karin Rich



Art and Kelly Garrett with Aline and Clive Gilmore



Samia Fayyad, Kameel Fayyad,
David Mitchell, and Samira Woodings

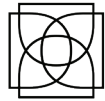


CCHS President Susan Bollendorf and Bob Broeksmit

CCHS is deeply grateful to the Sponsors and Friends of the 2023 Spring Gala. We extend special thanks to our host, Adrienne Arsht, for her gracious hospitality and for generously underwriting a significant portion of the Spring Gala expenses.

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