



Family Friendly Event, "Chevy Chase Celebrates," Is May 1 Spring Program



The maypole dance was a rite of spring at Chevy Chase Elementary School. CCHS continues the tradition when "Chevy Chase Celebrates" on May 1.

The Chevy Chase Historical Society invites the community to a day of celebration on Sunday, May 1, from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. at the Lawton Community Center, 4301 Willow Lane, Chevy Chase, Maryland. As part of its 30th anniversary celebration, CCHS is hosting this afternoon of hands-on activities and entertainment for all ages. Come help cut the cake and blow out the candles! Rain or shine, the event will go on and is free to the public.

- **Enjoy** the debut of CCHS' new photographically rich book, *Placenames of Chevy Chase: An Anecdotal Stroll Through the Centuries and Neighborhoods of Chevy Chase* (see page 3)
- **Dance** to Eubie Blake's 1914 "Chevy Chase Foxtrot" with the Ballroom Dancing Company
- **Ride** an old fashioned trolley on an architectural tour of the Town of Chevy Chase
- **Hear** performances by the Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School Jazz Band
- **Decorate** a carousel horse
- **Smell** the Chevy Chase rose, hybridized here in 1939

- **Create** a mural for the Chevy Chase Community Library
- **Design** a Chevy Chase house
- **Share** your personal memories of special neighborhood celebrations for inclusion in the society's archives

To mark its 30th anniversary, CCHS is focusing on celebrations, both family rituals and neighborhood traditions. In addition to the May 1 event, the society's Fall Program will feature an authority on American celebrations and traditions. For details on the May 1 schedule of activities and other CCHS events throughout the year, visit www.chevychasehistory.org.

"Chevy Chase Celebrates" is sponsored in partnership with the Town of Chevy Chase, the Village of Martin's Additions, Chevy Chase Village, and Chevy Chase Sections 3 and 5.

Please note: at 1:00 p.m., in the Town Hall to the left of the Lawton Center entrance, CCHS members will elect four Directors-at-Large. The nominees are Susan Bollendorf, Mary Anne Hoffman, Helene Sacks, and Natasha Saifee.

Celebrating One of America's First Streetcar Suburbs



CHEVY CHASE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P.O. Box 15145
CHEVY CHASE, MARYLAND 20825

Officers

Bridget HartmanPresident
Alice KinterRecording Secretary
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Oral HistoryJulie Thomas
Volunteers Mary Anne Tuohy

Newsletter Editor Wendy Adams

Executive DirectorStephanie Brown

CCHS Archive and Research Center
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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

1. Artifacts and ephemera related to the cultural and social history of Chevy Chase. Donated by Julie Rude Thomas.
2. Records of municipal affairs and photographs of Town events. Donated by the Town of Chevy Chase.
3. Digital images of damage in the Town of Chevy Chase from July 26, 2010 and November 17, 2010 storms. Donated by Wayne Fowler.
4. A swizzle stick from Poor Richard's Sirloin Room; a silver plated saucer, given as a first place trophy in the 1952 Woodward & Lothrop Pet Show; and a Giant Food Department Stores grocery bag circa 1955, featuring a blue and red print design of the local cowboy folk singer and personality Pick Temple and his dog advertising Heidi brand enriched bread. Donated by Lyn Sutherland. CCHS thanks Macco of Bethesda for generously framing the grocery bag for our collection.
5. Records of building applications and permits for houses in Chevy Chase Village Section 3. Donated by Section 3.
6. Digital images of the Dinwoodey-Linehan family between 1942 and 2006. Donated by Peter Linehan and Mari Katsumi.



Announcing the starters on the first tee of the Chevy Chase Club for the Women's National Championship, 1908.

7. Digital image of Virginia Lee Williams on the veranda roof at Chevy Chase Seminary, about 1937. Donated by Tim Heydt.
8. Hand-colored 1949 edition of *Atlas of Montgomery County, Maryland*, Volume 2, by F. H.M. Klinge. Donated by Molly Borders.
9. Ruth Crawford Seeger's *American Folk Songs For Children*, 1948 edition. Donated by Nancy Knickerbocker.
10. DVD of home movies made in 1954 by teenagers from Chevy Chase United Methodist Church. Donated by Charles Rother.
11. School memorabilia and family photographs from the Clark family of 21 West Irving Street, circa 1930. Donated by Mary Bogley Galt.
12. Yearbooks from Leland Junior High School and Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School, 1939-1941. Donated by Melissa Bourne in honor of her mother, Virginia Powell Butterfield.
13. Three Chevy Chase Club matchbooks from the 1940s, 1950s, and 1970s; a Chevy Chase Club ash tray from about 1965; programs from Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School events, 2010; and the November 7, 1908 issue of Harper's Weekly, featuring an illustrated article on the American Golf Championship for Women, held at the Chevy Chase Club. Acquired by staff.

New Book on Chevy Chase Debuts May 1

Authors to Share Book's Highlights at Spring Program

A new CCHS book, *Placenames of Chevy Chase: An Anecdotal Stroll Through the Centuries and Neighborhoods of Chevy Chase*, will be introduced May 1 at a panel featuring its co-authors, as part of CCHS' Spring Program at the Lawton Community Center. The panel will be held in the Town Hall to the left of the Center's entrance, from 1:00 to 2:00 p.m., immediately following a brief CCHS election. (See page one.)

Placenames of Chevy Chase authors Joan Marsh and Frances Stickles and CCHS Executive Director Stephanie Brown will share photographic highlights of the photo-rich local history book, that draws on CCHS' collection of vintage images, maps, and oral histories, to illustrate the serious and not-so-serious sides of Chevy Chase, Maryland's history. Many photographs are being reproduced for the first time in book form in this publication, and excerpts from recollections of local residents add colorful detail about life in the streetcar suburb over the years.

Back Channel Press of Portsmouth, New Hampshire, which specializes in small-run local history books with quality photographic reproduction, published *Placenames of Chevy Chase*. The book will be available for purchase and signing by the authors on May 1 at the discounted price of \$15.95. After May 1, the book will cost \$15.95 for CCHS members and \$18.95 for non-members.

The panel is open to the community free of charge, with no reservations required. Children under the age of 12 may enjoy other "Chevy Chase Celebrates" activities scheduled for the younger set during the presentation.



CCHS is delighted to welcome two new professionals to work at its Archive and Research Center. Danielle Swanson, who joined us as a paid intern in October, is enrolled in the Museum Studies graduate program at The George Washington University. She has been learning about our collection by cataloging the Julie Rude Thomas Collection of Chevy Chase History and the Town of Chevy Chase historic papers. American University 2009 alum Alex Parker has been volunteering at the Center since December. A history major at AU, he's now working full time and planning to return to graduate school in history or museum studies. Alex is working with our map collection, learning to do house history research, and helping to keep CCHS' website up to date.

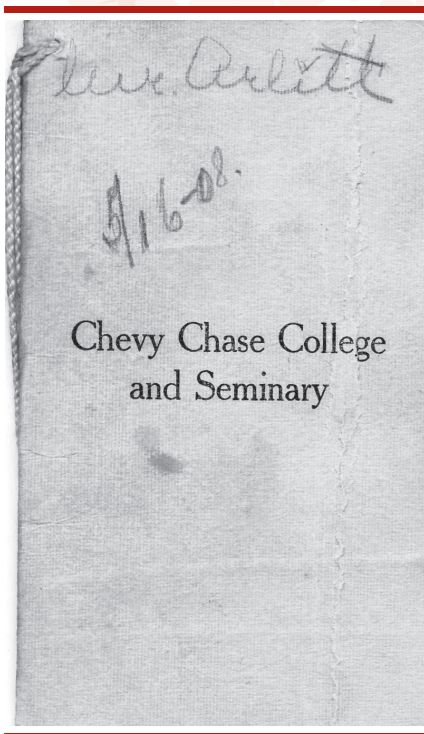


At the society's 2010 Fall Program, Mary Sheehan (center), President of CCHS since 2005, officially "passed the gavel" to immediate past Vice-President and incoming President Bridget Hartman (left). In appreciation of Sheehan's long and excellent leadership of CCHS as it has grown into an exceptional 21st century historical society, Executive Director Stephanie Brown (right) presented Sheehan with a framed photograph of one of the trolley cars that once served the streetcar suburb of Chevy Chase. We thank Sheehan, who will remain on the board as Director-at-Large, for her generous service, and welcome Hartman's able wielding of the gavel.

The Julie Rude Thomas Collection

The folded card is a few inches longer than it is wide. On the front a name is written in neat cursive: Mr. Arlitt. In light pencil at the top edge of the card, a date: May 16, 1908. Open the card, and inside find a list of dances: to open the evening, a march, and then, alternating, the waltz and the two-step. On the line next to each dance someone has written a name: Miss Richardson, Miss Kelley, Miss Hart. The occasion? A dance on the campus of Chevy Chase College, a school for young women, now the site of the National 4-H Youth Conference Center at 7100 Connecticut Avenue in Chevy Chase, on a spring night in 1908. Louis Arlitt, a regular guest at the college, took the streetcar out Connecticut Avenue to attend. He was a native of Austin, Texas, who had come east to school. After his years at The George Washington University, he went back to Texas. His college papers -- postcards, invitations, tickets, programs, and dance cards -- went into a scrapbook.

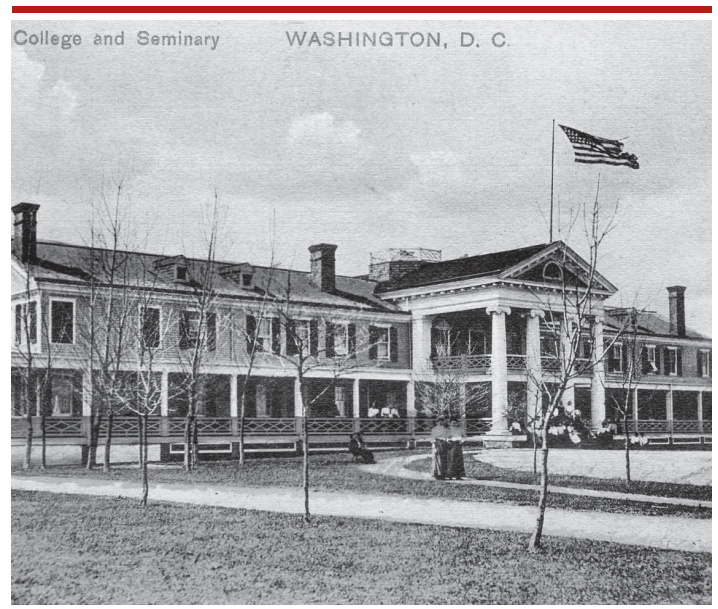
a few days later, the Thomases wandered in. Julie Thomas had always had an interest in collecting historic memorabilia; often, on trips, she would search out an antique store to find an item that caught her imagination -- an antique postcard, or booklet; maybe an album of photographs -- to take home as a souvenir. That afternoon in Austin, Thomas spotted an old scrapbook in one of the first stalls she ducked into. Leafing through it, she saw immediately that many pages had been removed. The pages that remained appeared to contain Gilded Age valentines and postcards. Thomas enjoyed studying such things; she often created notecards and gifts for friends based on historic designs. She bought the scrapbook for \$12.50. Back in the hotel room, she sat at the small table by the window and began slowly paging through her purchase, first looking only at the brightly colored cards, and then, with mounting excitement, beginning to read them.



"Mr. Arlitt's" 1908 Chevy Chase College dance card

Nearly a century later, CCHS board member Julie Thomas and her husband booked tickets to Austin to attend a professional conference. They checked into their hotel, and she opened the curtains in their room. Framed in the picture window was a large sign: Antiques Mall. On a free afternoon

That afternoon Thomas had made one of her most exciting acquisitions. This scrapbook was the creation of Louis Arlitt, a native of Austin who attended The George Washington University in the early 1900s. Whatever else he did with his time in the nation's capital, Arlitt appears to have spent his social hours at Chevy Chase College, which offered proper "finishing" and social opportunities as well as a college preparatory curriculum to its affluent students.. "Anything you would want from Chevy Chase College was in that



Students on steps of Chevy Chase College

Collection and How It Grew

album," says Thomas. The dealer in Austin had removed all the pages that referenced Arlitt's Texas life, and left behind his student years in Washington. Telling the story of Louis Arlitt's album at her dining room table in the Town of Chevy Chase, Thomas beams. "That discovery was one of the most fun moments."

Thomas is a collector. She plays to keep. When other people are throwing papers away, sorting their photographs and school records and family records and holding on to only an item here and there, Thomas is thinking about the significance of objects and weighing their historical importance. "You have to be discerning about what will be of value later, and look to the larger value, for the area or the country." CCHS is benefiting from Thomas's careful accumulation of materials: this year, she is donating her collection of Chevy Chase history to the CCHS Archive. Bridget Hartman, CCHS President, is thrilled. "Julie's collection is a treasure trove of material for us. Her passion for collecting, and her sense of local history, has produced a unique and important set of records that we're lucky to be able to add to our collection."

CCHS and Thomas go back nearly 25 years together. She and her husband joined CCHS in the late 1980s. By the early 1990s, Thomas was serving on the Board of Directors. "In the early years, I was privileged to work with Eleanor Ford on the

photograph collection," she recalled on a recent afternoon. "We spent an entire summer organizing the society's photographs and negatives. And Eleanor taught me how to do exhibits, which I've done for the society ever since." Thomas, who is stepping down from the board in May, has worked on programming, education, and governance, and for the last four years has managed the society's Oral History Project.

Her personal collection has long been a primary interest. "When I got married and left home," she says, "I went upstairs



President Eisenhower cuts ribbon at 4-H Center's 1959 opening



Matchbook cover from Chevy Chase Bowling Alley & Ice Palace

into the attic of my mother's house on Glendale Road and found a box. In that box was everything I had kept, from my days at Miss Libby's, Chevy Chase Elementary, Leland Junior High, and B-CC." A few years later, she found another

box, in another attic: her grandfather's. Captain Gilbert T. Rude had filed away mementoes from his naval career and subsequent work as a scientist and inventor. "It was amazing to find his papers, all put together." Julie undertook to learn more about her own family's genealogy, and that sparked her curiosity about her home town.

Thomas grew up on Glendale Road in the Hamlet. "I was aware even at a young age that the Hamlet was an unusual place to live. The Chevy Chase Land Company had built it in the late 1930s and it was modeled loosely on a European village, with all the houses backing onto a common courtyard where people had their garages and kids could play. I also realized that Chevy Chase was an unusual place to live, with so much common community, and everyone knew each other. So I started first to have a desire to know the history of where I was living."

That box of school memorabilia from the Glendale Road attic has grown to encompass a significant number of historic photographs, yearbooks, school catalogs, menus, matchbooks and other ephemera. Thomas's assemblage of Minnie E. Brooke postcards is one of her favorites. "Minnie Brooke lived in Martin's Additions in the 1910s. She was a suffragist and an entrepreneur: she had a photography supply store in the Chevy Chase Arcade, on Connecticut Avenue," Thomas explains. Brooke went into business producing photo postcards of Washington, DC and environs; those cards are now priceless windows onto the appearance of the area a century ago.



Postcard of Library of Congress, aerial view, published by Minnie E. Brooke of Chevy Chase, made in Germany



Concessionaire's hat from Chevy Chase Pool

Thomas has donated over 100 of these rare and valuable postcards to CCHS, with more to come. Executive Director Stephanie Brown has been working with Thomas on the donation. She observes that, "Julie's collection is a wonderful addition to our archive. I've spent fascinating afternoons with her as she has produced album after album of material -- everything from a Hot Shoppes menu to a hat from the Chevy Chase pool on Connecticut Avenue to a 1901 photograph of a conductor standing on the platform of his streetcar."

Brown typically works with Thomas at her house, and then brings boxes of items back to CCHS' Archive and Research Center in the Chevy Chase Community Library to be accessioned and cataloged, work that is supported and made possible by a grant from the Montgomery County Arts & Humanities Council. CCHS intern Danielle Swanson handles the details of the accessioning. A few weeks ago Swanson opened an envelope and withdrew an assortment of calling cards and other papers. She laid them out on the table in the Archive and studied them, bringing her training as a museum conservator and cataloger to bear on the small, fragile items. The calling cards were from Mrs. Samuel Nelson Barker, wife of the Chevy Chase College headmaster, and, in a flowing, genteel script, someone had written: "Saturday May 16, 8:30 to 11:30, Dancing. Please reply". Danielle turned to the other papers. One was folded, with a faded yellow ribbon marking the fold. A date was pencilled on the edge of the card, and, under it, a name: Mr. Arlitt. Inside the dances and Louis Arlitt's partners were listed. There were 16 dances; he had danced five of them with a Miss Hart. If you listened closely, you could hear the orchestra begin to play.

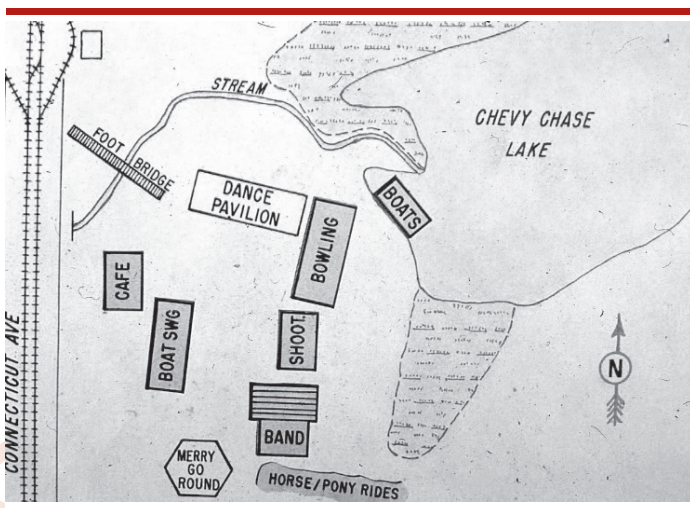
Chevy Chase Voices

"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.

Chevy Chase Lake and Amusement Park: A Destination

Part One, "It Was Wonderful!"

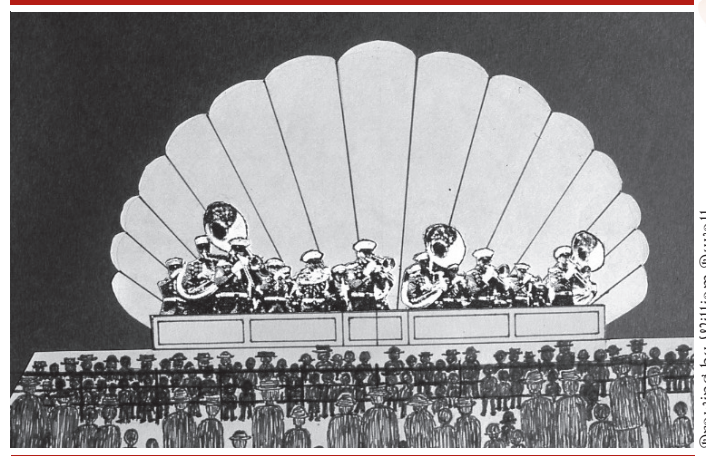
In 1891, the Chevy Chase Land Company opened Chevy Chase Lake and Amusement Park to entice city dwellers to the new streetcar suburb. The Chevy Chase Land Company and Rock Creek Railway carried them to the lake and park at the end of the line (where Connecticut Avenue and Jones Bridge Road now intersect). According to the 1974 Chevy Chase Savings and Loan calendar, "There were 25 passenger cars each carrying 42 people. In the summer the cars ran every 12 minutes weekdays and every six minutes on Sunday."



In her oral history Constance Weaver Thompson recalled, "We moved to Chevy Chase in Jan 1895. There were eight houses . . . [at the lake] you could rent a rowboat . . . ride the merry-go-round, or dance to the music of the Marine Band, even buy ice cream [in the café], which was an unusual treat in those days. Each year on the 30th of May a portion of the Marine Band got into an open trolley car and played their gayest tunes all the way out to the lake, and we knew that summer was here."

Edith Clause Jarvis, in her oral history, says, "[The musicians] in their colorful Marine band uniforms . . . would march up the hill to an enormous [bandshell] in the shape of a seashell. It was blue with electric lights every 12 inches

apart. . . [U]ntil Labor Day, the [band] was there every day except Sunday.



Louise Knowles recollected performances by celebrities including Kate Smith, John Philip Sousa, Eubie Blake who wrote the "The Chevy Chase Foxtrot," and Irene and Vernon Castle who introduced "The Cake Walk." Etta Richwine related that, "It was wonderful! There were two [dance] pavilions, an upper and a lower. They had "name bands" twice during the summer. A date would take you. There was always a stag line of about 20 to 25 . . . You danced 'till you felt the sweat on you. Your hair would be moist. The boy's hand on your back would feel wet; you would stick to each other."



Look for Part Two of this feature in the Summer issue of the newsletter

MYSTERY!

"Mystery!" is a regular feature in the newsletter. We invite all sleuths to help CCHS solve "mysteries" contained in the society's archive.



Who are the people posing with Town of Chevy Chase -- then Section 4 -- council member Jane Lawton, and on what occasion? This photograph recently joined our collection, and inquiring minds want to know where and when it was taken, and who lined up for the camera. Contact us via our Facebook page, www.facebook.com/chevychasehistory, send us an email at chevychasehistory@msn.com, or call us at (301) 656-6141. The first person to come to our aid wins a Chevy Chase Historical Society bumper sticker!

Chevy Chase resident Scott Gordon is the sleuth who successfully solved our Fall 2010 "Mystery!" Thanks, Scott!

Address Correction Requested

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CHEVY CHASE, MARYLAND 20825

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HISTORICAL SOCIETY



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