



Chevy Chase Historical Society

Newsletter

Late Spring 2005

“Working and Playing in the US,” The History of American Vacations

CCHS invites you to attend its annual meeting and spring program, which will feature the well known historian and author, Cindy S. Aron. The meeting and program will be held on Wednesday, May 18 at 8:00 p.m., at the Chevy Chase Village Hall, 5906 Connecticut Avenue, and will be open to the public.



Cindy S. Aron

Dr. Aron, author of *Working at Play: A History of Vacations in the United States*, will give a presentation on how Americans have vacationed since the nineteenth century. Aron has charted the transformation of American vacations from the early 1800s, when vacations were a privilege of the elite, to the eve of World War II, when vacations had become widely popular among the middle class and firmly entrenched as part of “the American way of life.” Her work represents the first in-depth history of how Americans have vacationed, from nineteenth century planters who summered in Newport to twentieth century urban workers who sought relaxation at camps in the hills.

Relaxing has not always come easily to Americans, as Dr. Aron will reveal by reviewing the tension between labor and leisure and the struggle Americans have experienced about taking time off from work. In the early nineteenth century, vacations were taken more for health than for fun. By the 1850s, the growth of the middle class and the expansion of the railroads made vacationing a more mainstream occurrence. But as the enticing prospect of rest and relaxation took hold, so too did fears of the dangers of idleness and a cultural anxiety over the concept of taking time off from work. Dr. Aron’s presentation will review not only the types of vacations prevalent during different periods in American history, but also the psychological aspects of vacationing in America.

Find out more about this fascinating aspect of our history by joining us at the Village Hall on May 18. Dr. Aron is a Professor of History at the University of Virginia. She has written numerous articles and books, including an early history of civil service employees entitled *Ladies and Gentlemen of the Civil Service: Middle-Class Workers in Victorian America*. She has received many honors for her scholarship, is a frequent speaker at conferences and symposia, and is active in many academic and professional organizations.

A short business meeting of the society will precede Dr. Aron’s presentation. During the meeting, CCHS will elect its officers for next two year term. The candidates proposed by the Nominating Committee are: Mary Sheehan for President, Angela Lancaster for Vice President, Helen Secrest for Corresponding Secretary, Alice Kinter for Recording Secretary, and Margaret Adelfio for Treasurer.

Light refreshments will follow the meeting. Please call Mary Sheehan at 301-652-5726 with any questions.

Chevy Chase Historical Society Newsletter



Chevy Chase Historical Society
Post Office Box 15145
Chevy Chase, MD 20825-5145
Tel.: 301-656-6141

Officers

Angela Lancaster President
Mary Sheehan Vice President
Alice Kinter Recording Secretary
Helen Secrest Corresponding Secretary
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CCHS Archives and Research Center

Chevy Chase Community Library
8005 Connecticut Avenue
Tel: 301-656-6141
Open 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. on
Tuesdays and by appointment.

The Chevy Chase Historical Society is a membership-based, non-profit organization founded in 1979 to promote historic preservation, education, and awareness of our past in the greater Chevy Chase community.

Recent Acquisitions

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

In recent months, CCHS has added the following material to its Archives and Research Center:

1. A selection of books on architecture and local history from Susan Goodman's personal collection, including a new copy of *The Tape Recorded Interview* by Edward D. Ives. Donated by Ms. Goodman.
2. *Journal of a 1984 Trip to the Middle East and India*. Donated by George W. Ford II.
3. Copies of pictures of 3417 Shepherd Street, and an advertisement for a catalog house similar to it. Donated by Lynne Iadarola.
4. Ten copies of the chapter on Chevy Chase from William Offutt's book, *Bethesda, A Social History*, and a 1958 ledger from the Brookeville Market. Donated by William Offutt.
5. *Irish Saga, From Horses to Airplanes*, the autobiography of Daniel J. O'Brien, a Chevy Chase resident, and two copies of an 1865 map of Montgomery County. Donated by Mr. O'Brien.
6. Photographs taken by architect Cherie Mohr of her renovated home at 3626 Raymond Street, the site of CCHS' 2005 Spring Gala. Donated by Ms. Mohr.
7. Photographs of the demolition of Leland Junior High School, now the site of the Leland Center in the Town of Chevy Chase. Donated by Kenneth Sayer.
8. *Illustrated Glossary of Early Southern Architecture and Landscape*, by Carl R. Lounsbury, three DVDs of the society's World War II commemorative presentation at the Chevy Chase Village Hall on May 26, 2004, and a copy of the program for the presentation. Donated by Evelyn Gerson.
9. *The Cruise of the USS PC 1596*, about an anti-submarine vessel in World War II, *Bill Creelman's Conflict*, the story of a boy's coming of age during the war, and a manuscript about the war. Donated by James McKay.
10. Vintage photographs of the Jacobs house at 16 West Kirke Street, and deeds and titles regarding the house (dating back to 1890). Donated by Flora Gill Jacobs.
11. An early photograph of a portion of experimental brick paving installed on Connecticut Avenue, postcards of Brook Farm, and photographs of 3704 Raymond Street. Donated by Joseph Valachovic.
12. A collection of the holiday letters of local residents written in 1944, and a pamphlet for the 75th anniversary of the Chevy Chase United Methodist Church. Donated by William Snape.
13. *A Journey Not Chosen*, the autobiography of Gloria Revilla Doyle, who lives at 110 Summerfield Road. Donated by Fran Schorr.
14. A copy of the study for the Georgetown Branch Corridor. Donated by Lee Rogers.
15. An early advertisement by the Kewanee Water Supply company for a home in Chevy Chase, from *Country Life in America* magazine. Donated by Julie Thomas.

continued on page 6

Sunshine and Flowers Grace Annual Spring Gala

Arts and Crafts Charm Delights Society's "May Day" Guests

Chilly spring rains gave way to clear blue skies and glorious sunshine in time for the society's annual Spring Gala and Champagne Supper on Sunday, May 1. Guests reveled in the gracious hospitality of architects Ms. Cherie Mohr and Mr. Shalom Baranes at their recently renovated home at 3626 Raymond Street. Ms. Mohr designed the renovations, which include interior and exterior transformation of the traditional two story home into a striking, modified Arts and Crafts structure, a substantial addition to the home, and landscaping of a stunning backyard. Guests circulated throughout the open, light-filled rooms and gravitated to the flower bedecked backyard terrace, spacious pool deck, and sunny rear yard.

An elegant and delicious buffet was served in the banquet-size dining room by Mr. Alain Roussel and his staff from La Ferme restaurant on Brookeville Road. Supper concluded with a variety of sweets, homemade, as is traditional, by CCHS board

members and committee chairs. Live guitar music provided a background to the animated supper conversation. The convivial atmosphere of the event was made even more festive by the assortment of fanciful and colorful hats, both vintage and new, worn by a number of the women guests.

In a special ceremony near the conclusion of the gala, CCHS President Angela Lancaster recognized the careful planning and meticulous follow-through of Kathryn Himstreet, chair of the gala, which made for such an enjoyable evening for all. She also thanked Ms. Mohr and Mr. Baranes for their generous hospitality and presented them with a bronze plaque, suitable for hanging indoors or out, recognizing their home as the site of the 2005 gala.

Thank you to all who attended this annual celebration of the historic neighborhood we all call home



Eleanor Ford and Chuck Muckenfuss share a smile



Hosts Shalom Baranes and Cherie Mohr open their gift



Shadelovers gather on the porch



What is this? The gift is a commemorative plaque



Betsy Stevens tells a story. Susan Elwell is rapt. Dick Marsh is not getting it.



The Board of Directors of the Chevy Chase Historical Society enjoy a luncheon after their traditional Saturday morning Asparagus Cookoff



Dick Marsh, Lee Petty, and Carol Coffin



Mr. Baranes flanked by daughters Elena and Hannah



Dining on the stairs are Maryanne Scharpf and Anne Heilman



Alain Roussel—whom we thank for the gastronomical delights from *La Ferme*— alongside Joan Marsh



The Jacobs family: Ephriam, Amanda, and Flora



Milo and Wendy Coerper savoring a little wine



Elizabeth Bausch, Gala Chairman Kathryn Himstreet, and Evelyn Gerson



Giulia Adelfio and Ed Sorensen, Maggie and Tony Adelfio, and Rip Coffin



Alaster and Sue MacDonald are smiling and pointing at photographer George Kinter. Why? Rip Coffin and Lee Petty look on.



Angela Lancaster, Marilyn and John Montgomery, and Mary Anne Tuohey



Dr. Fred North, Bill and Susan Kirby, and Jane North



At the reception table smiling a welcome were: seated, Alice Kinter and Helen Secret; standing, Alice Jacobs and Alice Consolvo



CCHS Vice President Mary Sheehan and President Angela Lancaster,



Ollie Thomas and George Ford



Guests chatting poolside, enjoying the sunshine and the setting



Music wafting from the library

Recent Acquisitions, *continued from page 2*

16. *Listening for Leviathan*, the biography of Mary Joe Kelly Wilhelm's father, who created Project Caesar and the SOSUS during World War II. Donated by Ms. Wilhelm.

17. A large colored photograph of the famous Chevy Chase Sideboard, on which is depicted the Battle of Chevy Chase, and a promotional pamphlet from the antique dealer who is selling the sideboard. Donated by James Goode.

18. Two copies of "The Fallen Tree," a painting by Kathryn Freeman set in the Town of Chevy Chase, a family history of the Offutt family, a house history of 6919 Woodside Place, a deed search for 3911 Bradley Lane, clippings of the history of Virgilia Street, the "approved tree list" for the Town of Chevy Chase, an autograph of journalist David Brinkley, and a clipping about Fred B. Zimmerman. Donated by the Town of Chevy Chase.

19. Important historical records documenting the establishment of the infrastructure of Section 3, and back issues of the Section 3 newsletter from the 1990s to the present. Donated by Andy Harney, Manager, Chevy Chase Village, on behalf of the Council of Section 3.

CCHS Archives Becoming Popular Source of Historic Photographs

The society is pleased to report that its archival collection of photographs is being drawn upon for an increasing number of exhibits. Some examples are the National Building Museum's exhibit, "Washington, D.C., Symbol of a City"; the American Museum of Natural History's web site exhibit, "Species and Sprawl"; and the Chevy Chase Land Company's web site displays.

The CVS Drugstore at the corner of Connecticut Avenue, N.W. and McKinley Street, N.W. also is displaying a number of enlargements of photographs from CCHS' collection. And, a local lawyer is using a number of the photographs to decorate her law offices.



**Chevy Chase
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