



## CHEVY CHASE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

SPRING / SUMMER 2019



### CCHS 2019 Spring Gala Held in Rollingwood

On May 5, the Chevy Chase Historical Society hosted its 2019 Spring Gala at the home of Nuria Carrillo and Kerry Scanlon at 3524 Leland Street. The striking contemporary home presents a dramatic facade of slab limestone, a curved roof, and a lush surrounding garden. Completed in 2011, the minimalist-style residence was designed by renowned Seattle architect Jim Olson to accommodate not only family life but also natural vistas and a stunning collection of contemporary paintings and sculpture. The home was conceived to explore relationships between space and light, and to connect indoor spaces to the beauty of the natural world. The architect described his concept for the home in the book Jim Olson: *Building, Art, Nature*:

Not wanting the house to stand out in the traditional neighborhood, we chose dark colors for the exterior that were rich, but would also recede visually.... This house also presents various recurring ideas—indoor/outdoor flow, “magic window,” infinite ceiling, and natural materials. The house emphasizes scale and proportion, and rooms in the house are arranged as “alcoves” off a grand hallway. The simple C-shaped plan surrounds a

private and contemplative courtyard, which includes a small bamboo garden and a covered lap pool.

The property, located near Brookville Road at the western end of the Rollingwood community, was purchased in 1934 by Pierre and Louise Wilson. A World War I hero, Pierre Wilson was awarded the Navy Cross and the French Legion of Honour. The white brick Cape Cod-style house built by the Wilsons later became home to a succession of public servants, including naval officers and teachers.

Not far from the Gala site once stood Rosdhu Castle, an early twentieth-century expression of luxury where owners Clarence and Daisy Calhoun entertained lavishly in the late 1920s. Today, the spectacular house on Leland Street promises its own twenty-first-century aesthetic and hospitality.

CCHS is most grateful to the Carrillo-Scanlon family for opening their unique home to gala guests, and congratulates gala co-chairs Dima Fayyad and Allison Marvin, along with their dedicated committee, for orchestrating an elegant and memorable celebration of our community’s history. (Additional gala coverage on pages 4 - 7.)

*Celebrating One of America’s First Streetcar Suburbs*



# CHEVY CHASE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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- Mary Sheehan.....President  
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 Nominations.....Julie Cannistra  
 Oral Histories.....Ann Toch  
 Technology.....Kathie Legg

### Archive and Research Center

Beth Huffer, MA  
 Director

8401 Connecticut Avenue  
 Suite 1010

Chevy Chase, MD 20815  
 Tel: 301.656.6141

[www.chevychasehistory.org](http://www.chevychasehistory.org)  
[info@chevychasehistory.org](mailto:info@chevychasehistory.org)  
[www.facebook.com/chevychasehistory](http://www.facebook.com/chevychasehistory)

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.

## Calling All Potential Oral History Interviewers!

CCHS is seeking volunteers to conduct Oral History interviews and help with tasks involved in supporting its Oral History program. Oral History is essential for future generations to better understand the lived experience of history, and the many meanings that people make of these experiences. Since the 1980s, CCHS has made it a priority to capture community history by conducting Oral History Interviews with long-time Chevy Chase residents, as well as adjacent businesses and their employees.

You can help CCHS collect unique historical information from people who participated in or observed past events, places and people in our community. All volunteers will be asked to attend an Oral History training workshop in the fall of 2019; the date is to be determined. If you are interested in volunteering or learning more, please contact CCHS at [info@chevychasehistory.org](mailto:info@chevychasehistory.org) or 301-656-6141.

## Join CCHS for 2019!

If you have not joined CCHS or renewed your membership for 2019, please do so today. We very much want and need your support. It’s because of you that we are able to operate the Archive and Research Center. You make it possible for us to collect and preserve historical documents, photographs and maps, and to take oral histories and house histories. We share the stories of our local history through twice-yearly, free public lectures on topics of historical interest, and through online exhibits on our website, [chevychasehistory.org](http://chevychasehistory.org). You also help us publish this Newsletter. Can we count on you to help and continue your support?

### *I want to be a supporter!*

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### 2019 Annual Membership Dues (make check payable to CCHS):

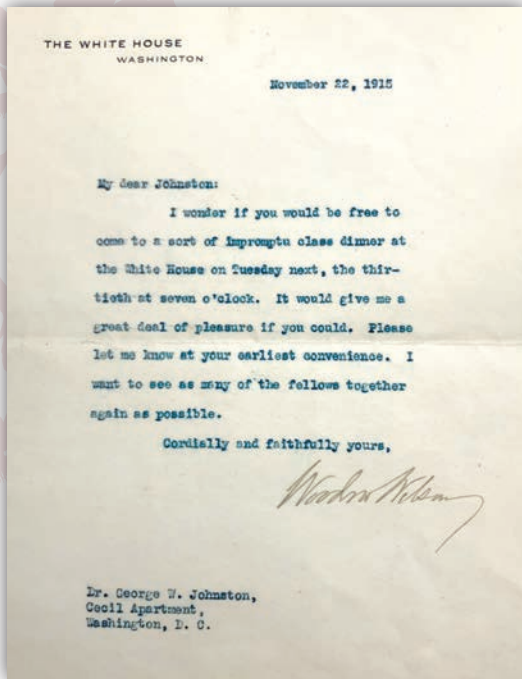
- Friend \$40    Patron \$125    Benefactor \$250
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- Contact me about volunteering at the Archive and Research Center or helping with a program

Mail this to: CCHS, 8401 Connecticut Ave., Suite 1010, Chevy Chase, MD 20815

Or join online at [chevychasehistory.org/chevychase/join](http://chevychasehistory.org/chevychase/join)



## CCHS Receives Eleanor Johnston Ford Collection



**A letter from President Woodrow Wilson inviting Dr. George Johnston to dinner at the White House.**

primarily was spent at their home at 4111 Bradley Lane in the Town of Chevy Chase.

Prompted by her enthusiasm for Chevy Chase history, Eleanor was an early member of the board of the Chevy Chase Historical Society. A serious historian and meticulous researcher, she established the CCHS photograph collection and over several decades expanded it to more than 10,000 photos. She produced numerous CCHS exhibits on Chevy Chase history, and also researched and compiled the history of the Chevy Chase Land Company. She remained an active CCHS board member until she was named its first Director Emeritus in 2008. Eleanor passed away on December 27, 2016.

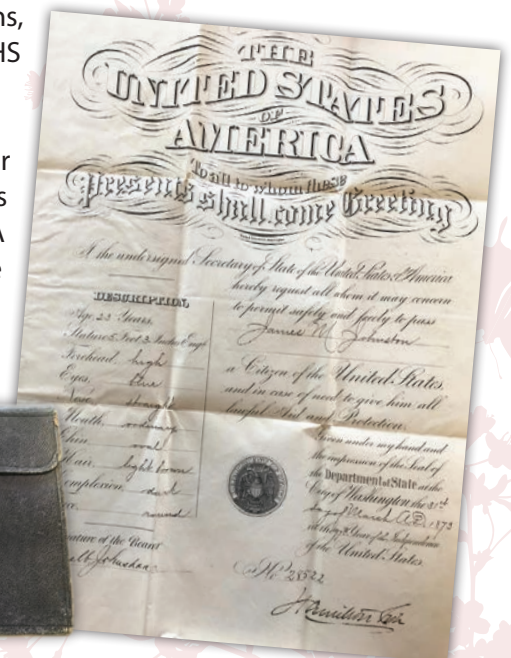
The reading room at the CCHS Archive and Research Center is dedicated to Eleanor, in recognition of her extraordinary contributions to the formation of the collections, the scholarship she brought to her work, and her warm friendships with other CCHS volunteers.

The thirteen boxes will be inventoried, processed, and arranged by the Director of the CCHS Archive and volunteers. This process will include rehousing papers and photos in archival folders and stabilizing fragile documents and objects. A finding aid will be developed to facilitate access to the collection and help future researchers understand the contents. Portions of the collection will be digitized and made accessible through the CCHS website.

**This oversize passport from 1873, measuring 11.5 x 17 inches, belonged to James M. Johnston, grandfather of Eleanor Johnston Ford. Although large, the document folds neatly into a leather case. One notable difference from today's passport is the absence of a photo. Instead, physical traits of the passport holder are listed, including hair color, height, and even forehead, nose and chin descriptions!**



**An unusual ambrotype portrait, a photo created by placing a glass negative against a dark background.**



CCHS is honored and delighted to have received thirteen boxes of papers, photos, diaries and letters belonging to Eleanor Johnston Ford, donated by her husband, George W. Ford and her son, Whit Ford. Eleanor was a distant relative of Chevy Chase founder Francis Newlands and an avid collector of both family and Chevy Chase history. The contents of the boxes trace Johnston family history beginning as early as 1821, and include research on the history of both Chevy Chase and the Newlands family.

Eleanor was born in Washington D.C. in 1932 and moved to Chevy Chase in 1936. She lived at 8 Newlands Street, along with her younger brother James Marion Johnston III, who now lives in Bethesda. Her father, James Marion Johnston, Jr., was an attorney and a banker. Her mother, Eleanor Relyea, was a homemaker and a volunteer with local charities.

Eleanor attended Sidwell Friends School from kindergarten through high school, and then went to Smith College. There she met George Ford, a senior at Yale. She graduated from Smith in June 1954, and married George the following September. Their married life involved much travel, but their time





*Hosts Nuria Carrillo, Kerry Scanlon and children with the CCHS Gala plaque*



*Tom Moore, Betsy Williams, Neal and Darcy Thompson*



*The team from La Ferme is ready to party!*



*Clarke and Naomi Camper, Kathie Legg, and Rajib Chanda*



*Gala Co-Chairs Dima Fayyad and Allison Marvin*

## **Contemporary Rollingwood Home**

CCHS made a bit of history itself with its 2019 Spring Gala. The event has never been held in a contemporary style home, and the first time the gala had a special initiative to expand its collections and its membership to Rollingwood. The event celebrated the Mexican holiday of Cinco de Mayo.

Hosts Nuria Carrillo and Kerry Scanlon graciously welcomed guests to the event. Party-goers enjoyed the couple's impressive collection of contemporary art. The night was clear to clear skies midway through the party, and tables and chairs were prepared for the occasion.

CCHS Archive Director Beth Huffer, and board member Carolyn Greis, presented the home on Leland Street environs, which had been carefully researched by CCHS.

Alain Roussel and his talented team from La Ferme Restaurant served a menu of Mexican dishes in celebration of Cinco de Mayo. Cheery spring flowers and a duo of Elsbeth Fager and Emily Nazario provided lilting flute music throughout the event in photos, including those in this Newsletter. Many additional photos were taken.

Three gift baskets were auctioned off: a Vineyard Basket containing 100 lbs of produce, a \$150 gift certificate to La Ferme and two bottles of wine, and a Summer Basket.

CCHS President Mary Sheehan welcomed the crowd and highlighted the organization's 25 years young, recently completed her oral history about her life as noted in the newsletter.

She then thanked the hosts for their hospitality and presented them with a copy of the bound history of their home, the previous owners of the property, and the organization, welcoming the gala guests and introduced one of the architects of the home.

In addition to our hosts and the gala co-chairs Dima Fayyad and Allison Marvin, we celebrated this annual celebrations of our community's past.



*CCHS President Mary Sheehan welcomes guests and thanks the hosts*





*Carlos Fernandez and Fred Cecere*



*Party-goers enjoy dinner al fresco*

## **is Site of CCHS 2019 Spring Gala**

It marked several “firsts” for the gala. It was the first time the gala has been held in the Rollingwood neighborhood, reflecting CCHS’ new address. It was also the first time the gala has fallen on May 5, the important date for the Society.

Guests were welcomed to their unique contemporary home on Leland Street. Over cocktails, there was art and sculpture throughout the residence. A rainy start gave way to a promptly set up for dining in the spacious courtyard.

The event was kicked off by a presentation that wowed guests with an informative history of the gala house and its location, given by CCHS volunteer Bob Andrews.

Following the presentation, a delicious buffet, the traditional menu augmented this year by several specialty items. Displays were arranged by Ginny Wydler of Lilac and Page florist. The event was captured by photographers Bill Mills and Nick Klein. All photos are available on the CCHS website, chevychasehistory.org.

In addition to 2 bottles of wine and champagne, a Wine & Dine Basket containing a variety of items for summer entertaining.

The Society’s Oral History program by introducing Lila Asher who, at 97, is a retired artist and university art professor.

The event concluded with a bronze plaque commemorating the gala, as well as an illustrated map of the neighborhood. Host Kerry Scanlon then made brief remarks about the home who spoke about the design of the residence.

On behalf of the Society, Marvin, CCHS warmly thanks the gala sponsors and all who attended.



*Tabitha Bailey, Chris Marvin, Susan Manning, and David Mostafi*



*Matthew Bright, CCHS Archive Director Beth Huffer, and Gail Sansbury*





*Burt Schorr, John Daniel Reaves, and Wendy Wick Reaves*



*Jody Tabner Thayer, Catherine Cecere, and Brad Thayer*



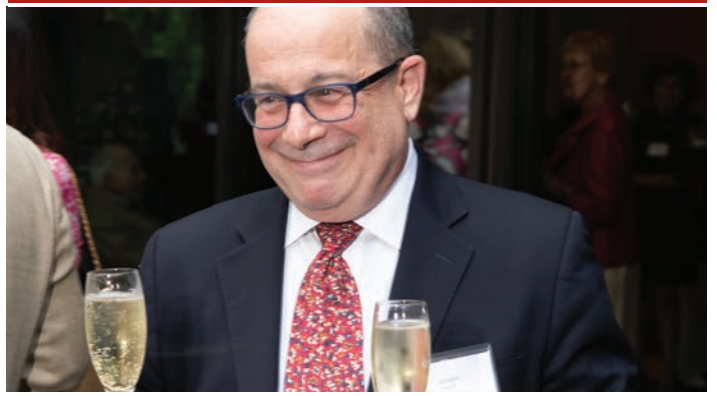
*Ann Toch and Carolyn Greis*



*Flute music filled the air*



*A sumptuous buffet by La Ferme*



*Joseph Busch*



*Dinner in the courtyard*



*Angela Lancaster and Julie Cannistra*





*Marion Blakey and Bill Dooley*



*Holly Kammerer, Natasha Coulouris, and Karen Jacobs*



*Jonathan and Linda Lyons*



*Samia Fayyad and her son, Kameel Fayyad*

**CCHS is deeply grateful to the Sponsors and Friends of the 2019 Spring Gala  
May 5, 2019**

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CHEVY CHASE  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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#### Address Correction Requested

## MYSTERY!

*"Mystery!" is a regular Newsletter feature, inviting all history-loving sleuths to help solved "mysteries" contained in the CCHS Archive.*

This image shows a new gazebo, presumably in a backyard, photographed by CCHS Board Member Edith Claude Jarvis in the 1980s for a Chevy Chase Village House tour. We would like to identify the address of this summery addition!

If you can help solve this mystery, email [info@chevychasehistory.org](mailto:info@chevychasehistory.org) or call (301) 656-6141.

