



CHEVY CHASE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

1981-2016 Celebrating 35 Years

SPRING 2016



“Ideal Home” on West Lenox Street Welcomes Champagne Supper Gala Guests

On Sunday, April 24, the annual Spring Gala of the Chevy Chase Historical Society (CCHS) was held at the home of Stephen and Ellen Conley at 9 West Lenox Street.

A classic late 19th century American Four Square with colonial revival elements, 9 West Lenox Street was designed by the well-known Washington artist and architect Louis D. Meline. An established master of still life and genre painting in the 1880s, Meline designed a number of houses in Chevy Chase Village as well as several significant mansions and row houses near DuPont Circle and along Massachusetts Avenue.

Meline purchased the two lots that comprise 9 West Lenox Street in August of 1895 and sold them to Col. Frank Lee Denny, Chief Quartermaster of the U.S. Marine Corps, an avid golfer and member of the Chevy Chase Club. Meline designed the home with spacious rooms and broad piazzas sitting at a graceful angle to the street.

In 1908, the house was celebrated as an “ideal home” and “one of the pretty pieces of architectural art that perpetuate the fame of Meline”. It was featured in “Chevy Chase for Homes,” a 1916 Thos. J. Fisher & Co. sales brochure.

A series of careful renovations by the Conleys have maintained key elements of Meline’s original interior plan with easy access to porches that extend around almost all of the house. A rear addition provides additional space for a main floor family room and generous

kitchen, as well as a media room and wine cellar on the lower level. The spirit of the lush gardens shown in an early photograph has been maintained, and along with the porches, terraces and walkways create the setting for elegant indoor-outdoor living.

Over the years, a number of remarkable families have owned this “ideal home,” including Clarence Moore, a Master of the Hunt at the Chevy Chase Club who tragically drowned with the Titanic in 1912.

Other owners include Hughes and Blossom Oliphant, lawyer Samuel Paschal and his family, Edythe Polsby Richman and her husband Rabbi Paul Richman, Frank and Mary Margaret Murray, Monroe and Joan Karasik and their children David, Michael, Judy and Paul. Judy and Paul wrote an inspiring book about growing up in the house with their autistic older brother David titled, *The Ride Together: A Brother and Sister’s Memoir of Autism in the Family*. The Karasiks sold the house in 1995 to William and Alice Janes, who made significant renovations before the Conleys purchased it in 2007.

The Society thanks the Conley family for opening their lovely home to CCHS, and congratulates our wonderful co-chairs Alison Mandell and Kate Sheckells, along with their hard-working committee for organizing an elegant and memorable occasion enjoyed by all.

Celebrating One of America’s First Streetcar Suburbs



CHEVY CHASE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P.O. Box 15145

CHEVY CHASE, MARYLAND 20815

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Open 10am to Noon, 1 to 3pm 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 the knowledge and appreciation of the community's history.

Vintage Streetcar Ride and Tour at the National Capital Trolley Museum



Trolley Museum

Guests first enjoyed a ride on a vintage streetcar through Northwest Branch Park, and were regaled by fun facts and colorful historic stories told by the uniformed conductor. Next, Museum Director Ken Ruker led a hands-on session where participants



**Demonstrating the adjustable seats
so passengers ride facing forward**

a variety of passenger and utility streetcars from around the world. Before departing, guests recharged with a snack and animated conversation about the day's events. CCHS thanks Mr. Ruker for his assistance in planning this entertaining and educational outing.

"Clang, clang, clang went the trolley" on April 9, 2016, when History-Go-Round participants visited the National Capital Trolley Museum. The tour provided an up-close-and-personal look at the hey-day of the trolley, which was described at the CCHS fall lecture in March by author John DeFerrari.



"All Aboard!"

"built" a tabletop version of the historic Connecticut Avenue trolley line and the "streetcar suburb" of Chevy Chase that grew up along its route.

Finally, guests participated in a docent-led tour of Streetcar Hall, featuring



Director Ken Ruker

Recent Acquisitions

"Recent Acquisitions" is a regular feature in the Newsletter, describing documents and other items acquired for the Society's Archive and Research Center

The CCHS Archive and Research Center receives many requests for information about Chevy Chase history from residents, students and educators. Some are interested in learning about their house history, while others are searching for information and photographs about their families. Still others are interested in historical research for various projects and assignments.

The staff uses three resources to research queries. The first is the digital database of over 15,000 items cataloging all the documents, photographs, maps, and plans in the CCHS archive. Next is the clipping file about people, places and events that has been maintained by volunteers since the inception of CCHS in 1981. The third resource is a collection of house history materials, such as deeds, for many of the homes in Chevy Chase.

The goal is to answer patrons' questions as quickly and completely as possible. Sometimes an interested resident finds the answer on their own, using the online database available on the Center's website. At the end of the workday on April 1, 2016, two emails were sent from Evelyn Leonard Wolfer which particularly touched the Society's archivist heart! In the first one, Mrs. Wolfer wrote:

"My sister and I are trying to determine which house on Raymond Street our father lived. He was born in 1907, so it would have been in that time period. The property was owned by his father, Fred James Leonard. Any suggestions how we can find the house?"

Later that evening, Mrs. Wolfer sent a second email, "Wow – thanks to your wonderful website's search option, I FOUND IT! My grandfather, Fred James Leonard, was the original owner of 3626 Raymond Street. He was Postmaster at some point. Later, he and my grandmother, Laura, lived on Delfield Street (off of Thornapple) in Chevy Chase. I remember this house well as I was born there in 1941."

After a few more emails were exchanged, Mrs. Wolfer sent a wonderful photograph taken around 1909 of her grandfather, grandmother, and father, Arthur Everett Leonard that has been added to the Center's photograph collection. Although there wasn't any additional information available about her family's home on Delfield Street, there was a lovely social announcement in the Evening Star at the time of her grandparents' marriage in 1902 in Berkeley Springs, West Virginia. Local newspapers are an example of "Resources Beyond CCHS."

There are written instructions at the Center about how to search local papers through the Montgomery County Public Library, the DC Public Library, and the Library of Congress. Photo by photo, document by document, news clip by news clip — this is how the Center's collection of Chevy Chase, Maryland history grows over time. Our increasingly digital world makes it easy to connect with the past from anywhere in the world. "History Lives Here" but Chevy Chase history is available wherever there's an internet connection.



**Fred James Leonard, his wife
Laura Buchanan Leonard, and their son,
Arthur Everett Leonard, c. 1907.**

Maple Shade, Berkeley Springs, W. Va., the home of Mr. and Mrs. David Buchanan, was the scene of a pretty wedding last evening. The contracting parties were Miss Laura Teresa Buchanan, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. David Buchanan, and Mr. Fred James Leonard of this city. The bride and groom are well known to the young people of Washington, both being members of the Metropolitan M. E. Church. The groom is employed in the office of the third assistant postmaster general, and is a brother of Mr. A. J. Leonard, stenographer to President Roosevelt. Miss Edith Buchanan, sister of the bride, was her only attendant, while Mr. Jesse E. Potbury of Washington was best man. Prior to the departure of Mr. and Mrs. Leonard on their honeymoon trip a reception and supper were given at the home of the bride's parents, at which the young couple received the hearty congratulations and best wishes of their many friends present. They were the recipients of a large and varied assortment of useful and beautiful presents.

**The Evening Star, August 28, 1902, page 5.
A similar article appeared in The Washington
Post announcing the wedding of Miss Laura
Buchanan and Mr. Fred James Leonard**



Lance and Mary Anne Hoffman are greeted by Jean Sperling and Bill Catherwood



Gala Co-Chairs Kate Shekells and Alison Mandell



The Conley family are ready to greet Gala guests (l-r), Stephen, Cully, Stephen, Jr., Ellen, Ryan and Kristen



Kate Shekells and Donna Evers converse on the patio



Tom Moore, Amanda Jacobs and Betsy Williams

An Enchanted Evening for

Mother Nature provided a perfect spring evening for the C... Conley graciously welcomed guests to their lovely Am... advantage of the splendid weather to dine and socialize on the e...

Elegant floral arrangements were provided by Helene Sacks. entertained from their spot on the front veranda. Once again, Treasurer, Carolyn Greis wowed guests with an informative ex... CCHS Volunteer, Bob Andrews.

Alain Roussel and the talented crew from La Ferme Restauran... traditional Gala favorites and a delightful birthday cake to celebr...

President Angela Lancaster presented the Conleys with a c... and Co-Editor of the Newsletter, Jean Sperling prepared a... Mills captured the wonderful event on film. Baskets of liba... Board were raffled off during the event.

CCHS thanks our hosts, the Conleys and also our Gala Co... Society is grateful to the Gala Committee, our "Sponsors a... attended this annual celebration of Chevy Chase history and

See many more at www.facebook.com



Guests mingle and enjoy the view of the gardens



Beth Lyle-Durham and Jim Durham



Dining al fresco on the front lawn

Society's Champagne Gala

CCHS champagne supper on April 24th. Hosts Stephen and Ellen American Four Square home at 9 West Lenox Street. Guests took expansive piazzas and lawn surrounding the house.

Marshall White and the Bethesda-Chevy Chase Jazz Ensemble Director of the Archive and Research Center, Gail Sansbury and exhibit on the house history, which was extensively researched by

at kept glasses full and served a sumptuous buffet with all the late 35 years of CCHS.

commemorative plaque and a bound house history. Director keepsake brochure of the house history. Photographer Bill donations donated by Alison and David Mandell and the CCHS

-Chairs Alison Mandell and Kate Sheckells. In addition, the and Friends" (see acknowledgement on page 7) and all who d the Society in its 35th year. Photos by Bill Mills

book.com/chevychasehistory.org



Angela Lancaster presents a commemorative plaque and house history to the Conley family



A swell party in full swing



"Cheers!" from Amelcar Ferrufino



TTR Sotheby's is well represented by Frank Snodgrass, Kirsten Williams, Ellen Abrams, Honor Ingersoll and Anne-Marie Finnell



The Karasik family comes "home" for the Gala (l-r), Judy Karasik, Bob Andrews, Gail Sansbury, Joan Karasik, Paul Karasik and Michael Karasik



A festive group of friends



Brandon Fried says hello to Burt Schorr



The house history is very interesting



Kerry Scanlon admires the stylish hats of Andrew Caffey and Nuria Carrillo



Bill and Helen Mills looking picture perfect



Bill Kirby takes a break from selling raffle tickets to give Maggie Adelfio a peck on the cheek



Ryan, Kristen, Stephen, Jr. and Cully Conley



Holly Bode, Bonnie Duffy, Jan Acton and Helen Blumen are the lucky raffle winners!



John Dorsey and Carolyn Greis share a laugh



Mary Anne Hoffman and Mary Sheehan are all smiles



Historic postcards were perfect party favors

We are deeply grateful to the Sponsors and Friends of the Chevy Chase Historical Society 2016 Gala

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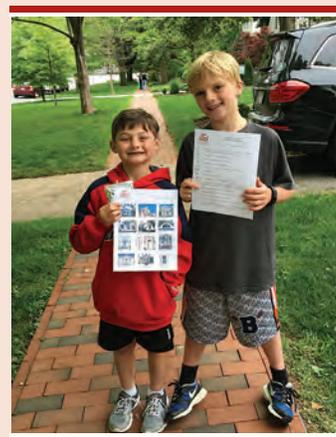
2016 Architectural Scavenger Hunt



Drew Reynolds spots a juliet balcony!



Young historians search for clues on West Kirke Street



Zach Cannistra and Luke Burns on the lookout for eyebrow dormers!

On Saturday, April 30th, young historians roamed West Kirke Street near the Chevy Chase Village Hall looking for clues in the first Architectural Scavenger Hunt sponsored by CCHS. Their "finds" were rewarded with prizes at the end along with the ability to tell a juliet balcony from a widow's walk.