Testimony of Gretchen H. Handwerger before the BZA on April 22, 2003

Mr. Chairman, Members of the Board:

My name is Gretchen Handwerger. I live at 1679 31st Street, N.W., across the street from Tudor Place and I have lived there for nearly seven years. During that time I have never had a problem with Tudor Place. I endorse their mission. I am not troubled by their activities, either those which are museum-related or those which are related to outside groups. I do not have off-street parking but I have not been unduly inconvenienced by parking in connection with Tudor Place events.

Along with other nearby neighbors, the ANC and citizens associations, I was invited to attend and did attend the meetings — called by Tudor Place — to consider the zoning application under which Tudor Place now operates and to formulate the application now before the Board. As was stated last week by Ms. Buehler, we operated by consensus and the submitted application incorporates views expressed at these meetings. Contrary to some views which have been expressed here that the current application represents an attempt to expand and extend the operation of Tudor Place, what we did was to take the existing application and narrow it — by decreasing the number and size of events — in response to neighborhood requests.

I'm a firm believer in the adage "If it ain't broke, don't fix it." If there were complaints pertaining to Tudor Place a number of years ago, they have been responded to and corrected as evidenced by the lack of complaints in the past few years.

In conclusion, I am here today simply to commend Tudor Place for being a wonderful, responsive and "good" neighbor and to endorse the application as submitted.

Thank you.

BZA
Case No. 16974
Exhibit No. 94

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO. 16974
EXHIBIT NO. 94