

ON THE WEST SIDE

THE UNIVERSITY
CITY HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

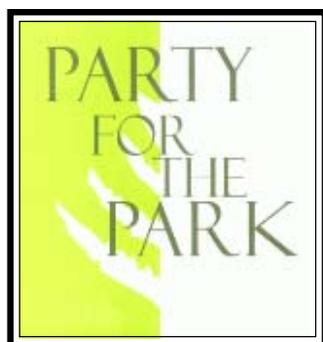


May, 2003

<http://www.uchs.net>

Mike Hardy, Editor

SPRING
AT
LAST!



To celebrate the end of winter and the promise of Spring, 2003, the month of May in University City begins with the Fourth Annual **Party for the Park (Clark Park, that is)**, this year on May Day, Thursday, May 1 from 5:30 to 8 p.m. at 43rd and Kingsessing Avenue (**University of the Sciences in Philadelphia** campus). This is the primary fundraiser for providing the supplementary maintenance that has made Clark Park shine in the last few years. Jointly sponsored by the **Friends of Clark Park** and the **University City District**, the party will feature spectacular puppet greeters from the Powelton-based **Spiral Q Puppet Theater**, revelers/dancers from **Anne-Marie Mulgrew and Dancers Company**, plenty of music by the **After Dinner Mints, May Wine**, a silent auction, hors d'oeuvres by the **Inn at Penn**, and good company, all for a great cause.

You should have received your invitation already. Please extend your support and allow us to take advantage again of the **Drumcliff Foundation**-required "community match" to access a \$20,000 annual pledge. Call **Meridith Sauer** (215) 243-0555 if you have questions or need an extra invitation. If you prefer to purchase tickets or contribute online via a secure server, www.ucityphila.org. 100% of your tax-deductible contribution goes

directly to supplemental park maintenance, for mowing grass, edging walkways, weeding planting beds, emptying trashcans, mulching & fertilizing trees, and complete spring, summer, and fall clean-ups.



The following Saturday, May 3, from 9:30 to 11 a.m., sees the second in this season's **PRIMER Homeowner's Roundtables**, informal "coffee get togethers" of homeowners and contractors to share ideas, frustrations, resources etc about how to fix things around the house. **D-L Wormley** at the UCD and the UCHS Board can give you more details at (215) 243-0555. The Roundtable takes place in the "back room" of **The Green Line Café** at the corner of 43rd and Baltimore Avenue.

Also on the same day, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. is the 2003 **Bartram Native Plant Sale** featuring a full catalogue of trees, shrubs, groundcovers, vines, perennials and ferns, plus some as-



sorted herbs. The list is long and inviting, but get there early (**Historic Bartram's Garden**, 54th and Lindbergh Blvd) for the best selection. In fact, even better is to attend on Friday, May 2 from noon to 4 p.m., for the member's preview (you can join on the spot) for first-dibs and special guided **Bartram's Meadow** visits and slide lectures by native plant gardeners and plantsmen/curators.

On Saturday, May 3, departing from Bartram's Meadow dock at 2 and again at 4 p.m., is the first of this season's hour-long **Schuylkill River Cruises** up river through **Center City** to the **Fairmount Waterworks** and back. A check or credit card information for \$15 per person will reserve a place. Get the full information about the day's events and future cruises at www.bartramsgarden.org, where you can find a reservation form or call (215) 729-5281. During the next month, Bartram's will host a **Community Open House** on Sunday, June 28 from noon to 6 p.m. with food, music and activities.

And in **Powelton Village** on May 3, an **Invasive Plants Workshop** will be presented by the **Pennsylvania Horticultural Society** and **Powelton Village Civic Association** featuring noted gardener and garden writer, **Adam Levine**, demonstrating how to identify and remove invasive plants from your gardens. This takes place from 10 to 12 a.m. at 3212 Winter Street, with registration for limited space with **Marilyn Reynolds** at (215) 988-8872.

TREES,
BIKES,
ETC



Sunday, May 4, beginning at noon, join **Philadelphia Green's Tree Tenders**, **Bartlett Tree Experts** and **The Bike Club of Philadelphia** for a family friendly, 15 mile ride to the historic and notable trees of **Fairmount Park** and **West Laurel Hill Cemetery**. Meet with helmets and water bottles (bicycles are available for rent) at **Lloyd Hall Boat House #1**, Kelly and Waterworks Drives. For information, contact **Mindy Maslin**, (215) 988-8844.

Not into biking? Yet another **Tour of the Fairmount Park Horticultural Center's Trees** will follow on Wednesday, June 4 from 6:30 to 8 p.m., led by **Lori Hayes**, director of the Center, Belmont & Montgomery Avenue, West Park. Refreshments will follow. Again, **Mindy Maslin** has the information, as well as registration forms for the next **Tree Tenders Training**, at PHS, 100 N. 20th Street, June 11, 18, 25, 6-9 p.m. and Saturday, June 14, 10-2. Graduation gives you access to special offerings of street trees, great networking and real knowledge about trees, their planting and care.

MAY FAIR, MAY 10

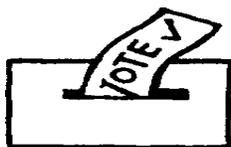
Drop by the **UCHS** booth at this year's **Spruce Hill May Fair** from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. in Clark Park to pick up "Welcome" packets for new neighbors, check out the first in a new **UCHS Practical Preservation Series**, **Windows: Repair or Replace?**, get info about the proposed **Spruce Hill Historic District**, purchase **West Philadelphia: University City to 52nd Street**, see demonstrations of custom millwork and gardening items from **Woodland Building Supplies** and stained glass by **Gary Bronson**. You also can hear about and discuss a proposed **UCHS "Help Line"** to assist University City property owners with decisions re exterior maintenance issues. At 2 p.m., check out the **Walk Philadelphia** tour of **Victorian Spruce Hill** leaving from the **University City Arts League**, \$10/adults, \$8 students. The tour will be repeated next on Thursday, June 12 at 6 p.m.

Mayor John F. Street has designated May 2003 as **Preservation Month** in Philadelphia stating, "*nowhere is it more important than in Philadelphia, where the roots of our nation lie.*" As part of the celebration, at the **Preservation Alliance for Greater Philadelphia's 10th Annual Preservation Achievement Awards Luncheon** on Thursday, May 15, a group of neighborhood historical societies will receive special recognition: "*These organizations in University City, Chestnut Hill, Tacony, Germantown, Bridesburg and Frankford preserve an important part of the history of the city. They organize tours, maintain*

collections, recognize local preservation efforts and address Alliance concerns on a neighborhood level.” For more info, see www.preservationalliance.com.

Wednesday, May 21, 5:30-7 p.m., **Take a Peek Behind the Scenes at the Wagner Free Institute of Science with Director Susan Glassman.** A slide talk and guided tour of this truly unique Philadelphia Victorian treasure with light refreshments and many surprises. Reservations required, (215) 763-6529. \$10 a person. 1700 West Montgomery Avenue

ELECTIONS AND INVITATIONS



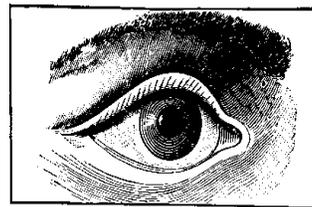
Members will find enclosed a ballot for election of one third of the **Board of Governors** of UCHS. All but one of these candidates is a current and active member of the Board willing to serve another term. **Jackie McCrea**, who has also been particularly active, but finds she can't continue accommodate her board service, be a wife/mother/professional, etc and maintain her superior credentials for conscientious dedication, will be missed on the Board, but will remain active in other efforts. Recommended to replace her is **Richard Dretsch**, an architect with the **National Park Service** and, for a number of years now, the owner responsible for the ongoing restoration of 4618 Hazel Avenue, a former boarding house and most mutilated exterior on this **Historically Certified** block, now being re-clad in its former **Classical Revival** exterior. Dick is particularly interested in contributing to UCHS preservation initiatives.

The ballot is a self-mailer which needs only a 23 cent stamp to mail back to us. **NOTE:** You can also order UCHS **“Welcome to the Neighborhood”** packets for your new neighbors to be dropped through your mail slot using this ballot. These may then be personalized by you and given to them. We will not be mailing them (too costly).

Members who might like to participate in UCHS committees and/or serve on the Board are encour-

aged to contact us to discuss the many options available. All are welcome.

EYES ON THE STREETS



With winter behind us, expect to see more exterior preservation efforts underway and gardening/greening improvements to UC's streetscapes. Please inform us of those you observe which are deserving of our thanks to those responsible for these **“Gifts to the Streets.”** Like, for example, the transformation at 4420 Larchwood Avenue, whose current owner has blessed us all by removing the disfiguring aluminum siding there and restoring the wooden porch railings and façade details. No reason to wait until the next **Valentine's Awards Tea** to thank her and others who are doing great things. Call or email us with news of others who deserve praise.

And don't fail to join **UCHS Grapevine**, a special members list serve for discussing historical and historic preservation issues, including recommendations for good local craftspeople, contractors and suppliers. Just send a blank e-mail to grapevine-subscribe@uchs.net.

SPECIAL

THANKS

to new **Sustainers of UCHS: Nicholas & Eleanor Cernansky; Nancy Roth & Sigrid Larson and Susan O. & Edward A. Montgomery, Jr.;** new **Friends of UCHS: Sylvia & Michael Brown; Mary & Neal Daniels; Dorothy Gillam; Martha Dooley & Kathleen Murray; Joan Wells and Gretchen Worden**

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