

# ON THE WEST SIDE

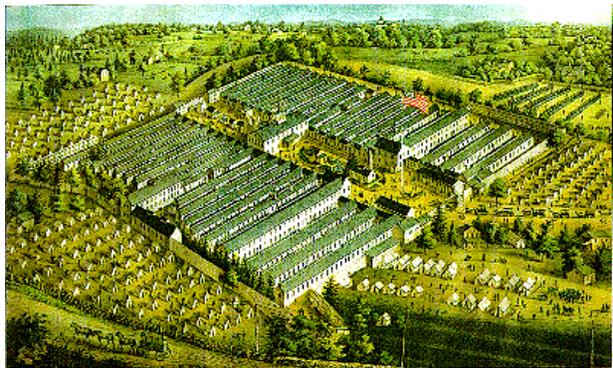
THE UNIVERSITY  
CITY HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY



November, 2003

<http://www.uchs.net>

Mike Hardy, Editor



## MARKING SATTERLEE

On Saturday, November 8, beginning at 11 a.m., UCHS will join with the **Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission** and the **Friends of Clark Park** in the annual **Veterans Day Commemoration** which this year features the unveiling and dedication of an **Official State Historic Marker** dedicated to the **Satterlee U.S.A. General Hospital** which occupied over 16 acres of land in **West Philadelphia** during the **Civil War**. The ceremony will take place close to the “**Gettysburg Stone**” near **44<sup>th</sup> and Baltimore Avenue** installed in **Clark Park** in 1916 to commemorate the hospital.

The program will feature participants from city and state government, local community organizations, students from the nearby **HMS School**, the **Boy Scouts**, police officers from the **18<sup>th</sup> District** and a number of **Civil War enactors** portraying nurses/laundresses, surgeons and the **Colored Infantry** of the period. These last participants, along with period instruments, medicines and tools, will be available to answer questions about their roles in the war and the hospital, one of the largest and most complete in the **Union Army** from 1862 to 1865.

The nomination for the marker was developed by UCHS and funded by the **Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission**, UCHS and a grant from **Merck & Company, Inc.** in recognition of the

community service work for UCHS performed by **Jackie McCrea**, a former UCHS board member and active contributor to the society. We thank all of those involved in this effort and encourage all to come out for a fun and informative event “dedicated to those who gave so much for so many.”

## ELECTION AIDS

The centerfold of this newsletter contains responses to questions re historic preservation in Philadelphia from the candidates for mayor and some of the candidates for council-at-large seats on **City Council** running in the election on Tuesday, Nov. 4. Those for mayor were developed and received by the **Preservation Alliance for Greater Philadelphia** and appeared in their newsletter. We thank them for permission to reproduce them here.

Those from the council-at-large candidates were the responses we received from our requests sent to all of the Democratic and Republican candidates (**Democratic: Blondell Reynolds Brown, David Cohen, W. Wilson Goode, Jr, James Kenney, Juan Ramos; Republican: David Hardy, Jack Kelly, Jamie McDermott, David Oh and Frank Rizzo**). In our request for their positions, we indicated that,

“While the University City Historical Society is unreservedly committed to the preservation and celebration of the Victorian and early 20<sup>th</sup> century historic architecture, a defining element in the quality-of-life in our area, we are also concerned with the future of period architecture throughout the city and regard it as a prime potential driving force for Philadelphia’s economic and social redevelopment.

Given the documented evidence that neighborhoods with historically certified historic districts in the city have resisted the continued city-wide loss of population and property values together with the most recent finding that the increase of new young and well educated residents to center city cited historic

architecture as the number one factor in their decision to locate there from other areas, could you provide us with responses to the following questions? These will be published in our next newsletter prior to the coming election for the benefit of our members.”

These responses are provided to give our members information about their decisions on Nov. 4. **We urge you all to vote!**

## 2003 HOUSE TOUR REPORT

The “**Renovations and Restorations**” UCHS **Fall House Tour** inspired everyone who took it! With close to 160 tickets sold on a sunny Sunday afternoon on September 21, 2003, it was a beautiful day to walk the area from **Chester Avenue to Larchwood Avenue, 45th Street to 48th Street**, and step into the ten houses and two restaurants featured. Visitors had the opportunity to see kitchen and bath projects, porch and facade restorations, and new decks and gardens. Some of the houses had been “saved” from some pretty brutal abuse or deconverted from previous uses as multi-unit rental properties. At some stops, recent homebuyers had totally renovated just-purchased homes in the past year, while in other houses, long-time homeowners showed projects they had tackled just recently. All owners had advice, renovation tips and inspiration to offer their visitors; and in return, the visitors provided enthusiasm and praise for the work they admired!

Thanks to homeowners **Ernie Waugh; Jonathon & Max Cass & Jackie Caridad; Will Giesey & Sherry Gauldin & Valentine; Nancy Juergens & Bob Behr & Annie Juergens-Behr; Julie & Ray Davis; Dick & Jean Landis; Isabel & Rod Boston; Don Caskey & Warren Cederholm; Roy Harker & Bob Ranando; and Stephen Wagner & Jason Bell** for doing all that inspiring work and inviting us into their homes. Thanks also to **Vientiane Café, 4728 Baltimore Avenue** for serving as the site for ticket sales, and to **Abbraccio, 820 S. 47th Street** for inviting all to stop by for a break and a snack during the tour, where **Baltimore Avenue Corridor Manager (and UCHS Board Member), Eli Massar** was also on hand to answer questions about the on-going effort to revitalize Baltimore Avenue.

All the properties without UCHS historic date plaques were supplied with them and complementary UCHS memberships as a small token of our collec-

tive appreciation, which also goes to the tour committee: **Melani Lamond, Marielena Mata, Stephen Wagner and Joan Wells.** Great job by all!



## THE ART OF RUTH MOLLOY

The legacy of **Ruth Molloy** (July 24, 1910 – Nov. 8, 2002) lives on, not only in memorials at [www.uchs.net](http://www.uchs.net), but through the efforts of her daughters, of whom she was especially proud. One of them, **Brenda Palley**, has organized a special exhibit of Ruth’s photos, sculpture and artifacts for local display from Nov 8 -29 and all UCHS members are invited to join the opening party at **The University City Arts League, 4226 Spruce Street** on Friday, November 7th between 5 and 7:30 p.m. Brenda’s description of her mother’s work, spirit and working philosophy follows:

”When Ruth was eleven, she recited **Shelley’s Ode to the West Wind**. She knew that she would win First Prize. She didn’t. Fifty years later, she said to her daughter, ‘I didn’t need to win. I already knew exactly how it was going to feel.’

Ruth always lived on two levels without losing her balance. The rational nourished the irrational. The impossible became the thing well done. Solitude was never loneliness: it was her pleasure and reward. After all, she could go to a banquet anytime. Ruth knew everyone and almost everything worth knowing and she could put her hand on the book that would give her the answers to everything else.



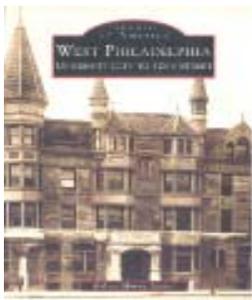
She even had spare time. Some of what she did with it appears in this exhibition. As Shelley said in his *Ode*, ‘**Be thou, Spirit fierce, my spirit! Be thou me, impetuous one!**’

## UPDATE: STATE HISTORIC TAX CREDITS

**Pennsylvania State Historic Tax Credits** are on the move! **House Bills 951** and **952** unani- mously passed during the House of Representatives votes on October 15th. Bill 951 is targeted at homeowners in historic districts who would receive a 20% state income tax credit for rehabilitating older residential properties along with a state sales tax waiver for the cost of materials and services and exemption from the state share of the realty transfer tax. Bill 952 provides similar benefits to owners of income producing properties and is modeled after the **Federal Rehabilitation Tax Credit**. Both bills received 199 “Yes” votes and 0 “No” votes.

Next will be the Senate’s version, **SB 820**, which is in the **Finance Committee**. We’ll keep updated as to its progress and will be contacting our State Senators, to inform them that, as of today, judging by the map reproduced on [www.uchs.net](http://www.uchs.net), over 2/3 of the residential prop- erties in University City are within **National Register Districts**, all of which could receive major assistance in their preservation if these measures were adopted by the state.

If you want the latest news, contact: [info@pataxcredit.com](mailto:info@pataxcredit.com) and check out [www.PATaxCredit.com](http://www.PATaxCredit.com) for the full details.



## SKALER STRIKES AGAIN

**Robert Morris Skaler**, the forensic

architect, architectural historian, post card collector and author of the hugely successful **West Philadel- phia, University City to 52nd Street**, continues to attract attention and requests for copies on our website. Bob has added a new Philadelphia title to the **Arcadia Publishing Company’s Images of America Series**, this time a survey of vintage views of the city’s **Broad Street**, both north and south of City Hall. Copies can be located in most good area book stores and it is priced at \$20, like the University

City version. Great viewing and reading as usual.

## OUR READERS RESPOND

“October 13, 2003 – Thanks to the **UCHS Calendar of Events**, I enjoyed last Saturday’s 3 p.m. **Schuylkill River Cruise** (from **Bartram’s Garden**).

The cruise revealed to me views of Philadelphia I had not seen before. Particularly, the creation of the **East Bank Walkway** with access to the left bank down pedestrian ramps from a couple of bridges.

I was impressed by the restored **Fairmount Water Works**.

The East Bank Walkway and the Water Works will be a gem in the **Schuylkill River** crown. I thank you,”

**Bob Weidenbacker, 3610 Hamilton Street.**

## WINDOWS & WELCOMES

Brochures and packets that is. The first 1000 of our “**Welcome to the Neighborhood and Historic Streetscapes of University City**” produced with the assistance of the **University City District** have gone out to new/and not so new neighbors, providing them with information about preserving and enjoying the resources of the neighborhood along with some cost cutting coupons for use in area businesses. A new series will need to be produced soon to meet the demand, so if you are interested in helping or suggest- ing someone interested in a worthwhile community service project to assist with the stuffing, get in touch. Also, businesses and community organizations have an ongoing offer of these packets to augment with their own informational materials and distribute to their members or prospective members.

And, the informative and well reviewed **Windows: Repair or Replace?**, the first in our **Practical Preservation Series**, authored by UCHS Board member, **Jeremy Wells**, continues to be requested, both by UCHS members, who may receive one free, and non-members, who need only send us \$3 for postage and handling for a personal mailing/delivery. Or, both members and non-members may pick up free copies during working hours at the **UCD** offices, **3940 Chestnut Street**. The booklet, designed both

to save the owner of historic buildings headaches and cash by making right and cost conscious choices when confronting window “problems,” was funded in large part by the **Citizens Bank University City Neighborhood Partnership Fund**.

## **AND DON'T FORGET**

Saturday, December 6, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., **Annual Holiday Greens Sale and Open House, Historic Bartram's Garden, 54<sup>th</sup> and Lindbergh Blvd.**

Decorated wreaths, centerpieces and ornaments fill the Bartram barn at this annual holiday tradition. Fresh holiday greens will be available for do-it-yourselfers in the barnyard. Call (215) 729-5281 for details.

Sunday, December 14, 4-8 p.m., **Holiday Twilight Tour of UC Artists Homes**, sponsored by UCHS and the **University City Arts League**, information to follow.

## **AND SPECIAL THANKS**

To new **Friends of UCHS – The John Bartram Association; Luz Umali Grigg & Juan M. Umali, MD;** and new **Sustainers of UCHS (and Lifetime Members): Tim Wood & Kate Stover**

## **READ BY ELECTION DAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2003**

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***THE UNIVERSITY CITY  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
P.O. BOX 31927  
PHILADELPHIA, PA 19104***