

ON THE WEST SIDE

THE UNIVERSITY
CITY HISTORICAL
SOCIETY



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<http://www.uchs.net>

Mike Hardy, Editor

A

LOOK



BACK

at early 20th century Philadelphia through postcards will be presented in a joint program with the **Friends of Walnut West Library** at 2 p.m., Saturday, January 17 at the temporary **Walnut West Library, 3927 Walnut Street**. This slide program and lecture will be delivered by **Fred Vincent**, a native Philadelphian who taught science in Philadelphia public high schools for 30 years and was also an administrator at the **Franklin Institute** and **Temple University**. Since retiring in early 1999, he has pursued a long time interest in cities, Philadelphia in particular.

Fred discovered he was a city person while serving as a **Peace Corps** volunteer in a small village on the island nation of **Sri Lanka** in the early 60' s. As beautiful as it was, lights went out at 10 and the nearest cheese steak was thousands of miles away.

Fred is the coordinator for special tours for **Walk Philadelphia** sponsored by the **Center City District** (including that for "**Victorian Spruce Hill**") and has developed his own walking tours and slide presentations focusing on the architecture and history of the city. His postcards give us a view of Philadelphia streets, buildings and parks, many no longer here or altered through time.

The program is free but space is limited and you should call **Allison Freyermuth**, the librarian, at (215) 685-7671, to request seats.

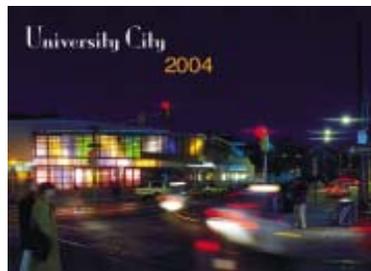
NEW FOR 2004

UCHS members will receive the quarterly newsletter of the **Preservation Alliance of Greater Philadelphia** as a special benefit and a way to connect what goes on in University City to the

greater efforts at historic preservation in the region at large. The first of these should already have reached you.

A visit to the website of the **University City District**, www.ucityphila.org will connect you with four new downloadable self-guided walking tours and maps of historic areas and special sites in University City. As the **UCD** puts it: "the neighborhoods of University City are wonderful places to tour by car and on foot. There are **8 National Register Historic Districts**, countless historic buildings, **Sylvan Clark Park**, and beautiful gardens and streetscapes to explore, as well as the grounds of 3 university campuses." Included so far are tours of the **Powelton Village Historic District**, the **University Square** area, some of University City's numerous cultural sites and an architectural tour of some of the sights in the **West Philadelphia Streetcar Suburb** and **Garden Court Historic Districts** using **Pine Street** from 40th to 47th Street as a primary axis. Hard copies of these tours and maps are also available at the **UCD, 3940-42 Chestnut Street**, during regular office hours.

And, of special interest, is a new **University City Calendar** for 2004 offered by the UCD containing images from **Bob Skaler's**



collection of vintage views of the area combined with spectacular color images of the area today. The wall calendar's overall theme is "**history, culture, cuisine**" and it is particularly useful for locating some of the area's major events along with complete calendars of the schedules of the area's major colleges and universities.

These can be ordered by **UCHS** members by sending a check for \$15/each marked "calendar" in the left hand corner. We will deliver these to the address where you receive your newsletter. All the monies raised here go to support the programs of the **UCD**, with a percentage earmarked to support the

preservation initiatives of UCHS.



Included you will find a new **PRIMER** survey by **D-L Wormley**, UCHS member and **Director, Neighborhood Initiatives** at the **University City District**. She asks for input on additional topics you would like to see offered in these workshops. There is also information about and a call for additions to the **UCD Contractor Database** available at their website, www.ucityphila.org.

These programs form a vital part of the preservation resources available to us in University City and, as testimony to their appeal, are also patronized by homeowners and others from outside the area. UCHS members receive a discount as one of the special benefits of membership, so now is your chance to help D-L make them even better in the new year.

Please note that the completed survey is due back to D-L at the UCD by January 30, 2004.

MARKERS & explorepahistory.com

At the recent dedication of the state historical marker for the **Satterlee USA General Hospital**, two of the speakers introduced us to how this effort fits into a larger effort to promote the story of the **American Civil War** and other “stories” of the American past for new generations .

Wayne Spilove, **Chair of the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission**, in his remarks introduced us to a new website designed to make history come alive in the **Commonwealth** and on the **Internet**. **Explorepahistory.com** uses some of the state’s over 1900 historical markers, supplemented by other historic resources, from original documents, images, audio and visual components, museums, historic sites, lesson plans, etc. to engage the visitor in an initial eleven “stories,” from “**The Underground Railroad**,” **Crossing the Alleghenies**,” “**Striking Oil**,” “**Religious and Utopian Communities**,” to “**Jazz in Pennsylvania**,” among them. All are designed to engage those looking for ways to explore Pennsylvania’s history,

visit its regions or teach its history. It includes information and interactive materials from lodging and restaurants to “printer-friendly” classroom materials. It’s worth a special visit. **Check it out!**

Jim Roebuck, our local **State Representative**, also touched upon his efforts, along with **State Senator Vincent Fumo**, to save the valuable Civil War collections in the city and to create a new Civil War museum to attract researchers, tourists and keep that special story alive and new.

Perhaps one day, our new marker will contribute its part to these larger efforts at keeping the past current and on view and thus enrich the environment for all of us. That’s our mission and we encourage any and all of our members who would like to contribute to it to get in touch. We will help to find ways for you to contribute to the effort, just as some of our members along with the **Friends of Clark Park**, the **Dickens Fellowship** and others have already done. They recently submitted a nomination for a state marker for the world’s only statue of **Dickens and Little Nell in Clark Park** to add that story to University City’s historic resources. If you have suggestions or want to contribute to other such efforts or help to tell other such stories, get in touch.

OUR READERS RESPOND

Mrs. Margaret Campbell of Drexel Hill wrote us of her interest in the Satterlee marker dedication: “I was interested because my great-grandfather was in the Civil War and he landed in the hospital in Philadelphia. I sent for his records and they informed me he was in the hospital in Washington, D.C. and then he was transferred to the Philadelphia hospital.

His name was **Asa Freas**. He lived in West Philadelphia around 36th and Locust.

He was in the **118th Regiment** and in **Company G**. The unit was sponsored by the **Corn Exchange of Philadelphia**. I don’t have any pictures of him. He was married and had two children.”

If readers have any additional information for Mrs. Campbell, she would appreciate hearing from them. She informs us that she is 81, her husband Bill (who died on October 10), was 83. She attended the **James Rhodes School** and graduated from **West Philadelphia High School**.

LAST CHANCE

for nominating neighbors who have given us “**Gifts to the Streets**” during 2003 in the way of historically-sensitive improvements to their facades, including new multicolored paint schemes highlighting historic details. Send or phone in their addresses so that we may send their owners and those responsible our collective “thanks,” a six-month UCHS membership (if they are not already members) and invitations to the February 2004 **Valentine Awards Tea** for special recognition.

The same goes for “**Green Gifts to the Streets**,” greening and gardening additions in 2003.

A number of commendation letters have already gone out for 2003, but please help us include any we might have missed. After all, it's you we look to for developing these commendations.

And hold February 8 for our annual Valentine Awards Tea this year when all those thanked will be acknowledged along with the winners of UCHS's **Outstanding Preservation** and **Preservation Initiative Awards** for 2003. Separate invitations will be in the mail this month with all the details, including a new surprise venue for the event.

SPECIAL THANKS

to all who renewed your UCHS dues recently and to those who made special contributions as **Sustainers of UCHS: Gregory Montanaro; Tim Rupe & Mark Stuart; Collette Hain & Bret Tobias;** or as **Friends of UCHS: Carol & Richard Betts; Jan & Arthur Bye, Urban & Bye, Realtor; John & Ethel Cebra; Rachel Gart; Michael Hardy & Barry Grossbach; Robert & Geraldine Giuntoli; Conrad & Lois Hamerman; David Horwitz; Mary Anne & Jack Hunter; Sally & Stanley Johnson; Alfred Airone & Carolyn Jean Kelly; John Schnepf & Richard Kirk; Michael Levin; Brian Ratigan & Melani Lamond; Jeanne Solkolak & Joe Lorenc; Brian W. Yachyshen & Jacqueline B. McCrea; Maureen Tate & Gerry McHugh; Sue & Jack Minnis; Joe & Betty Moloznik; Gregory Muller; Laurie & Victoria Olin; Jeffrey Berger & Danielle Rice; Dan Biddle & Cindy Roberts; Betty Schneider; David Ade & Paul Steinke; Mark Wagenveld and Joan Weiner.**

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