

ON THE WEST SIDE

THE UNIVERSITY
CITY HISTORICAL
SOCIETY



August, 2004

<http://www.uchs.net>

Mike Hardy, Editor

THE MOTHER OF ALL PORCH SALES



UCHS will be joining in this year with another neighborhood annual celebration as we join the **Hamilton Street Porch Sale**, a long established tradition in **Powelton Village**. Each September, the porches and sidewalks along the 3400 to 3700 blocks of Hamilton Street are taken over for a day by those who have registered and ask permission to use a resident's porch or sidewalk to offer items (furniture, dishes, linens, household items, kitchen things, cloths, jewelry, books, tapes, plants, crafts, tools, appliances, etc) for sale to the general public. As this year's organizers put it, "*Remember, your junk may be someone else's treasures!*" A great improvement is also made to a number of University City basements, both those which lose and those what receive.

UCHS will be setting up along the 3500 block of Hamilton Street (look for our banner), beginning at 9 a.m., Saturday, September 11 until 3 p.m., with a rain date at the same times and place on Sunday, September 12, rain or shine. In addition to framable photocopy details from period Philadelphia real estate atlases, which map homes and developments in University City, particularly in Powelton, we will be offering **Bob Skaler's West Philadelphia: University City to 52nd Street**, our new/old "**Architectural Treasures**" poster, those of our mugs that remain, historic date markers and special information about University City, in particular details of the **Powelton National Register Historic District**. We also will be handing out copies of our **Practical Preservation** brochure on "**Windows: Repair or Replace**" along with copies of "**On the West Side**," "Welcome to the historic streetscapes of

University City" packets and UCHS membership forms for those who are interested.

UCHS board members staffing the sale would welcome additional contributions from members of donations to join these offerings, the sale of which will benefit UCHS programs and, if you can spare the time, join us yourselves as vendors for a few hours. It's great fun and plenty of homemade food and beverages are on hand as well. If any of this is possible, call us at (215) 387-3019 and someone will get back to you with more details.

Not only is this another chance to get out the word about the special history of University City and Powelton, but to celebrate the porch and the porch sale as one of the special delights of the neighborhood landscape, a lesson learned long ago by our hosts in Powelton Village who continue to mount this annual event.

BOARD ELECTIONS

For UCHS members, there is a ballot included for those UCHS board slots that are up for election this year to serve for three years. A number of these are for board veterans such as **Ellie Cernansky**, at 930 S. 48th Street, who besides her special service at the annual Awards Tea and other UCHS sponsored events, has taken on the job as point person for keeping our UCHS quarters at the **Calvary Center** in shape; **Don Gillis**, 424 S. 47th Street, whose special interests in the **Civil War** inform his concern for our **Satterlee Hospital** programs and **Greg Montarano**, 4222 Pine Street, retiring this fall as UCHS President, but continuing to develop his connections with others in the city on behalf of UCHS. **Teresa Sims**, of 4614 Cedar Avenue, wants to continue working with others in **Cedar Park** to represent UCHS and **Tim Wood**, even from 7312 Emlen Street, continues to work at maintaining and developing our website.

New candidates for the Board this term are **Michael Jones**, who since purchasing his home at

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311 S. 34th Street in 1998, has worked in Powelton as president of their civic association, co-editor of the **Powelton Post** and chair of their college/community committee. He has also developed and maintains a special Powelton Village website at <http://www.poweltonvillage.org>, rich in historical information and images for which he solicits further contributions. Search your basement! He will bring those special talents and interests to his UCHS board service as well.

As will **Lettie Holden** of 4833 Hazel Avenue, whose special concern is spreading the gospel of historic preservation, façade restoration and painting renewal by local craftspeople as a tool for community building. Lettie’s background as a New Orleans native and a retired window designer at **Wanamakers**, the first African-American woman to be hired in that capacity, are evident in her new restaurant, **Café Harlem**, next to the post office in **Yeadon** where her design sense, culinary talents, organizational skills and jazz connections reach the public. Reservations at (610) 622-6600! We expect her to contribute more of the same esprit to her work for UCHS.

You will need to return your completed ballot, using a 23 cent stamp, by August 31, 2004 to allow these candidates to begin working on your behalf in September.

THE RESULTS ARE IN

from the special polling of its membership by the board of **Spruce Hill Community Association (SHCA)** to ask if they continue to support the UCHS/SHCA nomination for **Spruce Hill** to be a local historic district. Of the 473 voting members, more than 81% voted to reaffirm SHCA’s commitment to the nomination. The majority of these voting members are property owners in Spruce Hill and would be among those living in and owning the roughly 1,924 properties within the proposed district’s boundaries.

These results have been officially reported to **Michael Sklaroff**, the chair of the **Philadelphia Historical Commission** as well as **Dean Gary Hack** of the **Preservation Task Force**, Councilwoman **Jannie Blackwell**, **John Gallery** of the **Preservation Alliance for Greater Philadelphia** and others interested in the nomination. They were also sent detailed information about UCHS’s and SHCA’s long commitment to this process, stretching back over 15 years, requiring extensive commitments of time, talent and resources. All of these efforts

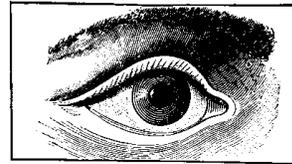
were extensively documented by **Kate Stover** of SHCA and UCHS and included in the letter to chairman Sklaroff, sent by the two presidents of the two organizations.

The letter concluded by respectfully requesting “a public explanation of the status of our application so that we can share this information with members of our associations and others within the Spruce Hill community. Obviously, until the commission’s review and notification process is underway, we continue to be denied the protection a local historic district would provide for our historic structures and the advice and assistance of the historical commission in guiding and advising property owners on the most effective strategies for their historic preservation.

We hope to hear from you at your earliest convenience, but hope that this will be before the advent of fall when our regular newsletters resume publication.”

We look forward to the answer to this request and hope to include it in the next “**On the West Side.**”

WHERE TO LOOK?



for those special “**Gifts to the Streets,**” in the form of historically sensitive façade improvements (including multicolored paint schemes highlighting period details) and streetscape greening improvements made so far this year. Annually, at the suggestion of our members, UCHS sends out letters of commendation to those giving these gifts to the broader community, inviting them to join us at the **February Valentine’s Awards Tea** and enjoy the benefits of a 6-month complementary membership in UCHS.

No need to wait until year’s end to do this, with some letters for this year’s improvements already sent. We invite other nominations. Send us the addresses for both exterior façade improvements and gardening efforts and we will locate those responsible for the efforts. Contact us at our mailing address, email address or phone number on the bottom of page one with your ideas. You have the best eyes for this that we know of.

PLEASE CONSIDER COPYING AND DISTRIBUTING THIS WARNING LETTER TO YOUR NEIGHBORS.

KEEP IN MIND

Saturday, September 18 - Cedar Park Fair, 49th and Baltimore - UCHS will sponsor a table again this year at this annual event presented by **Cedar Park Neighbors**. Again we will have the materials we will be bringing to the Powelton Porch Sale - less the porch sale items you might be donating to that sale! Volunteers are still welcomed here.

Monday, September 22 – The **Philadelphia Inquirer** will be publishing a special section, as part of its **Philadelphia Neighborhoods** series, on University City, with contributions from UCHS and plenty of special information about what's going on around us.

AND

SPECIAL THANKS TO

those who renewed their annual dues since the last newsletter and particularly to those who made special contributions of \$40/household to become **Friends of UCHS: Bill & Betty Baumann; Sylvia & Michael Brown; David Othmer & Maureen Barden; Mary McGettigan & Larry Caputo; James M. Fennell; Carolynne & Iman Kalifa Martin; Angela & Mark Mills; Jeff Saven & Phoebe Qi and Beth & Nelson Wicas**; and to those who generously contributed \$100 or more to become **Sustainers of UCHS: David Adelman, Campus Apartments; anonymous in memory of Dorothy Gillam; Mary E. Blackson; Ann & David Brownlee; Dan DeRetis, Apartments@Penn and Arlene & Don Matzkin.**

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P.O. BOX 31927
PHILADELPHIA, PA 19104*