

# ON THE WEST SIDE

THE UNIVERSITY  
CITY HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY



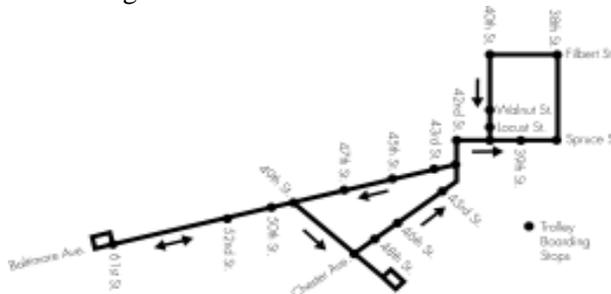
November, 2004

<http://www.uchs.net>

Mike Hardy, Editor

## HAPPY

the only newsletter notice for this event. Call (215) 387-3019 or email [info@uchs.net](mailto:info@uchs.net) to let us know you are coming.



## TROLLEY DAY, 2004

Eli Massar

**Baltimore Avenue Corridor Manager, UCD**

On Saturday, October 16<sup>th</sup>, 1100 residents, visitors, returning Penn alumni, and trolley enthusiasts rode three newly renovated 1930's era PCC trolleys on a loop connecting fifteen stops along **40<sup>th</sup> St., Baltimore Avenue**, and throughout the neighborhood. Along the route, with stops every twenty minutes, people enjoyed local restaurants, bakeries, historic tours, art shows, museum exhibits, book sales, and tree planting events. Long advocated by the **University City Historical Society**, the **University City District** and many other local organizations, with limited additional track construction, a permanent trolley loop could also link commercial and institutional resources on **Lancaster Avenue, Penn's University Square, 40<sup>th</sup> Street and Baltimore Avenue** with their surrounding neighborhoods. For more details, see the complete proposal under "streetcars" at [www.uchs.net](http://www.uchs.net).

While we will work to see that this year's **UC Trolley Day** becomes a regular seasonal event, it can preview the construction of such a permanent **University City Streetcar Trolley Loop**. Operating night and day, seven days a week, it could provide, for both residents and visitors alike, an alternate to total dependency on the automobile and fossil fuels to: get home or to work; pick up the groceries; mail a letter; visit the doctor or dentist; take the pet to the

## BIRTHDAY

the 112<sup>th</sup>, that is, of the electrification of the trolley in Philadelphia. At **Calvary Center for Culture and Community, 48<sup>th</sup> and Baltimore Avenue**, on Wednesday, December 15, UCHS will join with others who love the trolley as an ideal way to get around, at a birthday bash for the trolley's electrification at the end of the last century. Switching from horse to electricity permitted longer and faster lines from center city and gave us the major impetus for the **West Philadelphia Streetcar Suburb Historic District** that we enjoy today.

The program for the evening beginning at 7 pm will include a special birthday cake and children's art. This will follow slide programs from **Ed Springer** of SEPTA's rail operations showing slides of trolley streetscapes of the area (many radically changed today) and **Joel Spivack** of images that form the basis of his **Philadelphia Trolleys**, which will also be on sale for the author's signature.

The UCHS office on the second floor of the Calvary Center will also be open for inspection and the reception and birthday party following the slide programs.

Please mark your calendars now as this will be

vet; rent or buy a place; get to church; take home some bread; get to the bank; pick up the kids; get to school or day care; have brunch; get to a **Philly Car Share**; hear a talk; buy or borrow a book; take out a pizza; get the best haircut in the city; eat **burritos, gyros, injera, pad thai, fettucine alfredo, chicken tandouri, kimchi** and whatever our great local chefs create; visit a friend; get to a meeting; take in a museum; buy plants and flowers; stock up on cat litter; pick up dinner-to-go, go into town, in short, to access and enjoy the myriad of amenities along the extensive still-existing streetcar but little used track system in the neighborhood.

This promises a 21<sup>st</sup> century solution to meeting the urban transportation needs of University City's diverse, but often separated, communities. It could also serve as the life blood for economic redevelopment of UC's major commercial corridors and connect us to new visitors in center city Philadelphia. If you support these objectives, could you drop a line or an email to (**UCHS, P.O. Box 31927, 19104 or [info@uchs.net](mailto:info@uchs.net)**).

## HISTORIC PRESERVATION TASK FORCE

Members of the community interested in historic preservation in Philadelphia are invited to attend a forum of the **Historic Preservation Task Force** to discuss Philadelphia's historic district designation process. The Monday, November 29 forum will meet from 6:30 to 9:30 in the Winnet Building; Great Hall (S2.19 A & B) at **Community College of Philadelphia, 1700 Spring Garden Street** (entrance on 17<sup>th</sup> Street) to focus on the relationship between preservation and development in low and moderate-income neighborhoods. This forum, the third of a four-part series, will consider: *How can the need to assemble land and remove blighting buildings in neighborhoods, particularly those designated for Neighborhood Transformation Initiative (NTI) efforts, or within active redevelopment areas, be balanced with historic preservation issues?*

The forum is being sponsored by an historic preservation task force that has been convened by **Philadelphia City Councilwoman Jannie Blackwell** and chaired by **Gary Hack, Dean of the School of the Design of the University of Penn-**

**sylvania.** It has already held public meetings in this series focusing on inclusion and the historic district designation process and the impact of district designation on people with low and moderate incomes. Following the 11/29 forum, the public will be invited to attend a final public meeting to discuss the findings of the task force.

The task force has been charged with making recommendations to City Council concerning the historic district designation process. The task force will investigate how other cities deal with these issues in order to understand best practices in framing its recommendations.

Members of UCHS and those committed to the proposed **Spruce Hill Historic District**, currently before the **Philadelphia Historical Commission**, are urged to attend this final fact finding session to demonstrate our positive commitment to the district nomination process and improvements to the efficiency and effectiveness of preservation efforts in Philadelphia.



## YOUR LAST CHANCE

to visit the special exhibition of rare and historical objects, brought together by the **American Philosophical Society** to celebrate natural history in North America, 1730-1860, is December 31, 2004. **"Stuffing Birds, Pressing Plants, Shaping Knowledge"** at **Philosophical Hall**, 104 S. 5<sup>th</sup> Street, displays plant and animal specimens (including rare survivors from **Charles Wilson Peale's** museum), watercolors, drawings, manuscripts and rare books to tell the exciting story of the national passion of discovering and celebrating the unique natural history of America.

Of particular interest for our area are the displays of materials and images, some on public view for the first time, of works by **William Bartram** and **Alexander Wilson**, both of whom resided and worked on the west bank of the **Schuylkill**. The Bartram drawings are particularly provocative in displaying his unique perspective on the natural world and his read on what should be our connection to it.

The exhibition is free and hours and information on group tours can be found at (215) 440-3427 with a special animated introduction at [www.amphilsoc.org/exhibitions/nh](http://www.amphilsoc.org/exhibitions/nh). If you are a member, or prospective member, of the **University City Garden Club**, join a group tour to the exhibition on Friday, December 3, meeting at Philosophical Hall at 5:45 p.m. Call (215) 386-3905 for more details and to reserve a place.

## NEW OFFICERS

This fall, the Board of Governors of UCHS selected **Mark Stuart** and **Arlene Matzkin** as **President** and **Vice President** to lead the organization for the coming year. Mark, who lives on the **4500 block of Pine Street** is a development officer with the **Veterinary School of the University of Pennsylvania** and Arlene, an architect with **Friday Associates** who lives on the **3500 block of Baring Street..** They join longtime **Secretary Nadine Landis** and hardworking **Treasurer Joanne Kellerman** in making up the **Executive Committee of UCHS.** The Board is lucky to have such committed officers for the new year ahead.



## PORCH RAISINGS

are scheduled for Friday and Saturday, November 19 and 20 for the two properties flanking **256 S. 45th Street**, the long abandoned property being stored by developer **Tim Delaney.** Using building materials financed by **UCHS** and the **Spruce Hill Community Association**, the porches of the flanking properties are being restored by Tim and his crew for the property owners whose financial resources would not have made this possible.

On Friday, November 19, we are asking for those with carpentry skills to volunteer to work alongside Tim and his crew in removing and replacing the decks for these properties and supporting the newly restored porch roofs so that the columns, railings and architectural details can be removed for scrapping and

priming on Saturday. In the event of rain, this workday will be rescheduled for Monday, November 22.

On Saturday, November 20, we invite others to help with the dry scarping and priming of the older elements which will be reused in the restoration. Masks, knives, brushes and paints will be made available and the work will occur on site, or, in the event of cold weather, inside the **Spruce Hill Center** across the street. Joining us for this will be a number of volunteers from the **Mid-Atlantic Lutheran Student Movement of University Lutheran Church, 3637 Chestnut Street.** Other members of the community will be welcomed to help them. Call (215) 387-3019 for additional information or to contribute materials and/or loan tarps for this.

## SPECIAL SHOPPING

For the unusual in holiday gifts is available this year from the **University of Pennsylvania Museum of Archeology & Anthropology** whose museum shops will offer unusual items from fair trade cooperatives and individuals in **South America, Africa, Afghanistan and India.** On Saturday & Sunday, December 4 & 5, special discounts of 10% (non-members) and 15% (museum members) will apply to these highly distinctive, innovative items made from a variety of materials, including recyclables, along with personal appearances by coop leaders.

In addition to shopping for these one-of-a-kind merchandise and stocking stuffers, the three museum shops have an extensive selection of international gifts for adults and children. Visits to these shops are free and their hours and detailed information is available at (215) 898-4022 or at [www.museum.upenn.edu](http://www.museum.upenn.edu). Here is another of the unique advantages of living in University City.

## GREENS SALE AND OPEN HOUSE

**Bartram's Garden** invites the public on Saturday December 4th from 10am-4pm to select from an array of natural wreaths decorated by Bartram gardeners and volunteers. The best locally-grown Poinsettias, and hand-crafted centerpieces and decorations with an angelic theme will be showcased in their historic barn, Philadelphia's oldest.

Premium loose greens will be available in the Bartram barnyard for the do-it-yourselfer. Sip a cup of cider, browse the boxwood and balsam, and imagine the possibilities for creating your own festive holiday mood. Enjoy holiday craft activities for children and open house tours with colonial cooking demonstrations throughout the day.

Bartram's Garden members enjoy a sneak preview and first pick of all items on Friday December 3rd from 12 to 4 pm; non-members may join on that day. Bartram's Garden is located at **54th and Lindbergh Boulevard**. There is free parking and the garden is on the 36 trolley route. Call 215-729-5281 or visit [www.bartramsgarden.org](http://www.bartramsgarden.org) or for more information.

**Friends of UCHS: The John Bartram Association; Howard Deck & Marvin Brown; Daniel T. Campbell; Leon & Joanne Kellerman; John & Betsy McCoubrey; Marilyn & John Taylor.**

## SPECIAL THANKS

to those who have recently responded to their UCHS dues billings and in particular to those who have made generous extra contributions as **Sustainers of UCHS: Roy Harker & Bob Ranando; Larry Gladney & Jackie Tanaka; University of the Sciences in Philadelphia;** and as

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*THE UNIVERSITY CITY  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
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