

ON THE WEST SIDE

THE UNIVERSITY
CITY HISTORICAL
SOCIETY



February, 2009

<http://www.uchsn.net>

Mike Hardy, Editor

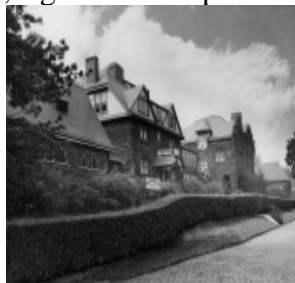
WINNERS ALL

A major addition to an historic area institution, a corner twin and three sets of restored facades on three complete twins in **Cedar Park, Spruce Hill** and **Powelton** were recipients of **Outstanding Preservation Awards** at this year's **UCHS Valentine's Tea and Awards Celebration**. UCHS members and those commended for their **Gifts to the Streets** and **Green Gifts to the Streets** enjoyed refreshments and applauded a large and deserving collection of awards at a reception at **The Castle (c. 1903)**, the home and b&b of **Ellie & Nick Cernansky** on Saturday, February, 15, 2009.

Those responsible for the new additions to the **HMS School (c. 1886)**, **4400 Baltimore Avenue**, were granted an **Outstanding Preservation Award** for the exceptionally high degree of sensitivity to the historic fabric of the original school building and chapel and the neighborhood-at-large, exhibited in the design and execution of **Harris Hall**, the state-of-the-art new dormitory and clinic addition.



That design is shown above, together with a photo from 1956 shown at right which pictures a previous addition to the complex that served as an inspiration for the new design.



Alvin Wadler from the **HMS School**, together with **Project Director Matt Heckendorn** and an associate of **Hooper Shiles Architects** accepted the award from **Belynda Stewart**.



910 S. 47th Street (c. 1895), the home of **Merryl Gladstone** and **Robert Schnoll**, received an award for the restored façades, landscaping and multi-colored paint scheme cladding this corner twin, lovingly maintained, restored and improved over time.



The restorations of totally restored twins gained **Outstanding Preservation Awards** for **4724-26 Cedar Avenue (c. 1909)** the work of **Stephen Wagner**, architect and developer from **4506 Chester Avenue**, who meticulously rehabbed the former joined twin home of a religious order to restore it to attached single family homes with restored porches and front facades, including a multicolored paint scheme to replace the enclosed front porches as shown above.

The rebuilding, restoration and coordinated painting of the porch columns, balusters and wooden details of the two twin



adjoining properties at **4320 and 4322 Larchwood Avenue (c. 1905)**, owned by **Sutter Wehmeier & Anna Bell-Hibbs** and **Rebecca Gruliov** was also



honored. The award also recognized the coordinated granite curbing and plantings of the front gardens of these unusual two story twins. Contractors **Luis Ribeiro, Fine Painting, 437 S. 49th Street** and **Victor Brubaker, Builder, 429 S. 45th Street** are also among the awardees pictured above.



3416-3418 Hamilton Street (c. 1882, G.W. and W.D. Hewitt, architects) were also given **Outstanding Preservation Awards** for the coordinated full restoration and multi-colored paint of their new porches, with new decking, porch roofs and wooden historical columns, balusters and detail copied, in **Philippine mahogany**, from another **Hewitt house in Powelton.** Among those accepting the award are owners **John Culhane & David Girasole** and family; **Lawrence & Teresa Matthews** and family; developer, **Frank Sarlo, 3415 Baring Street**, and restoration contractor,



Frank Reis, Walnut Tree Construction, Inc.

The year's **Preservation Initiative Award**, granted to that effort during 2008, while not resulting in the finished restoration of a property or site, significantly advanced the cause of historic preservation. The award went to the **Friends of Clark Park** and its



current president, **Frank L. Chance**, for their ongoing efforts toward the preservation and restoration of historic **Clark Park, c. 1894.** Recent efforts on behalf of the Friends and their partners have included the planting of 120 new trees in the last four years, the annual **Party for the Park** which raises funds for privately contracted maintenance, the renewed basketball court and underground retention basin, a newly commissioned plan for the park between **Baltimore and Chester Avenues** with attendant fund-raising efforts, and the hosting in the park of fairs, theatre, flea markets, reunions, soccer contests and the twice-weekly farmers market.

GIFTS TO THE STREETS

The **University City Historical Society** recognized and thanked those responsible for these **"Gifts to the Streets"** in the form of historically sensitive exterior preservation efforts in 2008. We are all enriched by their efforts.

4613 Cedar Avenue – Sims, Giles and Associates, restored windows, bays, masonry and multi-colored paint scheme

4614 Cedar Avenue – Deborah Giles & Theresa Sims, restored windows, bay shingles and multi-colored paint scheme

4521 Cedar Avenue – Timothy & Miriam Siftar, multi-colored paint scheme

3504 Hamilton Street – Lance Becker & Karin Rhodes, multi-colored paint scheme and ironwork additions to side balconies

3600 Hamilton Street – Bruce Benedon, porch restoration and multi-colored paint scheme

4726 Hazel Avenue – **Glenda Jennings**, façade restoration and multi-colored paint scheme

4508 Locust Street – **Ahmed Shahnawaz & Hussain Fahmeda**, porch restoration and multicolored paint scheme

525 S. Melville Street – **Elaine Zanutto**, multi-colored paint scheme

4415 Osage Avenue – **John & Megin Myers**, slate roof, copper flashings and gutter restoration

406-408 S. 45th Street - Lilia Labik, 408 S. 45th Street, multi-colored paint schemes with **David Hitchman**, painter

538 S. 48th Street – **Lauren & Kevin Duffy**, porch restoration and multi-colored paint scheme with **Chris Neff, 4612 Kingsessing Avenue**

619-621 S. 48th Street – **Beverly Bowe & Vittoria Savelli (619); Harry A. Leonard, III (621)** – coordinated multicolored paint scheme

UCHS also thanks those responsible for these “**Green Gifts to the Streets**” given by those below during 2008. These gardening and greening efforts enrich us all in the area.

Alexander Wilson School, 1300 S. 46th Street – 17 new trees and ornamental fencing, **Sonya Harrison, Principal; Phil McCabe, Science Teacher; PECO; USP; TreeVitalize; Project NEAT of the American Cities Foundation, UC Green**

University of the Sciences in Philadelphia, 600 S. 43rd Street – new streetfront hardscape and plantings, **4200-4500 blocks of Woodland Avenue, Dr. Philip Gerbino, President; Elizabeth Bressi-Stoppe, VP, Community Partnerships**

Parent Infant Center, 4205 Spruce Street – 12 memorial hawthorns along **S. 42nd Street** honoring **Marni Sweet, former Executive Director; Cindy Roberts, Executive Director; UC Green**

Woodland Recreation Center, 1414 S. 47th Street – over 90 street and yard trees, **Dennis Lee, Project NEAT, American Cities Foundation; Barbara McCabe, Department of Recreation; Michael Leff, TreeVitalize; UC Green**

Henry C. Lea School, 4700 Locust Street – new street and yard trees, **Lisa Bellchiles, Principal; Viviane Nachmias, Nancy Geryk, Michael Dillen, Garden Court Greening Committee; UC Green**

Saunders Park Greene, 39th & Powelton Avenue – new trees and plantings, **Tammy Leigh DeMent, Parks Coordinator; David Elliott, Landscape Designer, Pennsylvania Horticultural Society; Gary Ginsberg, Asst. Ex. Dir., Penn-Presbyterian Medical Center; Jean Mitchell, Saunders Park Neighbors, UC Green**
UC Green Woodland Avenue Street Gardens, 4609-11 Woodland Avenue – newly opened sitting and front yard gardens, **Sue Pringle, Executive Director; Stephen McCoubrey, Landscape Designer, UC Green**

OLD HOUSE FAIR

This year’s addition of the **Old House Fair** offers an expanded version of this one day display of professional vendors and specialists, preservation organizations, demonstrations and one-on-one free consultations for those seeking help and ideas for maintaining and restoring their period homes. Hosted by the **Preservation Alliance** on Saturday, March 28, 2009 from 9 to 5 at the **Germantown Friends School, 31 W. Coulter Street**, general admission at the door is only \$10. For more information: (215) 546-1146, x7 or george@preservationalliance.com. Well worth the effort!

GARDEN COURT WALKING TOUR

As the **Victorian Era** faded out, new ideas gave birth to a new paradigm in residential living. The new century began with fresh new architectural



styles such as the **American Arts and Crafts** movement, and the automobile forever changed the way Americans lived. Stroll past a few blocks on the western edge of the **Spruce Hill** neighborhood and admire the grand and ornate last gasp of Victoriana

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in many of the 1890's "twin" semi-detached houses. As you cross into the **Garden Court** neighborhood on Sunday, March 29, beginning at 10:30 am, you will appreciate the contrast in lifestyle the **Twentieth Century** brought and will look for harbingers of spring in this lovely neighborhood.

If you would like to sign up for this tour of "**Garden Court: The Early 20th Century & the American Suburban Ideal**" sponsored by the **University City District**, contact **Mark Silber** at buddmar@mail.com. Tour max is twelve. First come first served.

NEW OFFICERS

The **Board of UCHS** has selected new officers for 2009 in the persons of **Belynda Stewart, President; Helma Weeks, Vice President; Mark Wagenveld, Secretary** and **Joanne Kellerman, Treasurer**.

UCHS HOUSE TOURS

In light of the decision of our partner **Philadelphia Open House** to go to alternate years for its spring house tours, UCHS's regular spring house tour will take place in 2010 with a Fall, 2009 local "**Restoration-in-Progress**" tour now being planned for the UCHS area. Suggestions to the planning committee for possible in-progress interior and exterior renovations, particularly those with "sustainable building practices," will be welcomed at info@uchs.net or (215) 387-3019.

EMAIL NEWS

UCHS would like to initiate sending "**On the West Side**" to members by email soon for those who would like to receive it electronically and allow us to save postage, energy and trees.

If we already have an email for you, unless we hear from you to the contrary, we would like to send a color version of the next edition in April to you in a **PDF** file. You probably have the **Adobe Reader** needed to open it on your computer, but if you need the latest free edition of the Reader, go to <http://adobe.9-download.com/>

If you think we may not have a correct email for you, could you send it to us at info@uchs.net or if you would like to continue receiving a hard copy, let us know at the same address or call (215) 387-3019 and leave us a message.

UNNECESSARY DEMOLITION

While celebrations of outstanding restorations were underway at this year's **Awards Tea**, the totally unnecessary demolition of an iconic **Italianate** twin at **4224-26 Baltimore Avenue**, dating from **c. 1860**, was in progress. The new owner, **James Campanella** and his **New York City** associates requested and were granted a demolition permit for bulldozing a structurally intact complex that had previously served as school buildings for both the **Episcopalian Byrd School** and the **Phillip Brooks School** and a shelter for **Women Against Abuse** during its long life overlooking **Mill Creek** and later, **Clark Park**. It was sold to Campanella for millions within the last few years by **Women Against Abuse** who received it for \$1 from the **Philadelphia Redevelopment Authority**.

Ignoring last minute expressions of concern from **UCHS, Spruce Hill Community Association** and **Councilwoman Jannie Blackwell**, the owners cited the inconvenience of preserving the buildings and the costs of insurance as the basis for their request to **L&I** to raze the buildings and leave the space available for future, but unspecified, new development. Alerted at the last moment, the community encouraged adaptive reuse, with a 20% tax credit for improvements to these contributing structures in the **National Register West Philadelphia Streetcar Suburb Historic District**. All fell on deaf ears and a hastily formed street protest of neighbors said good-bye to these old contributors to our historic streetscapes, which continue to be threatened



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with more demolitions and losses. The neighborhood remains powerless, thanks to the years-long inaction of the **Philadelphia Historical Commission**, to prevent them.

Perhaps a larger contingent of concerned neighbors should move to continued demonstrations at meetings of the commission on a regular basis to express our frustration.

GONE !



AND, AGAIN, SPECIAL THANKS

go to those renewing their UCHS dues and making additional contributions as **Friends of UCHS: David Othmer & Maureen Barden; Carol A. & Richard J. Betts; Joan Halbert & Paul Brooks; Scott Wilds & Martin Bodtmann; Mary McGettigan & Larry Caputo; Warren Cedarhom, Jr. & Don Caskey, The Gables; Eva Christensen; James M. Donley; Richard Dretsch; Libby Rosof & Murray Dubin; Robert & Elizabeth-Eilers; Sylvia L. Egnal; Robert & Geraldine Giuntoli; Conrad & Lois Johnson Hamerman; Karin Boykin & George Karpyn; Joanne & Leon Kellerman; Judy Lamirand; Jim Lilly, Metropolitan Bakery & Café; Victoria Bingham & James Lint; Richard Lowe; Brian W. Yachyshen & Jacqueline B. McCrea; Maureen Tate & Jerry McHugh; Angela & Mark Mills; Joe & Betty Moloznik; Mark Wagenveld & Theresa Mond; Thomas & Joan Naff; Kathleen F. & James Ross; Chip & Marci Staddon; David Ade & Paul R. Steinke; Carol Thomson; Jean Wolf, The Woodlands; Michael & Peggy Wright**

as well as those making particularly generous gifts as **Sustainers of UCHS: David Adelman, Campus Apartments; Elizabeth Bressi-Stoppe, University of the Sciences in Philadelphia; Becky Wright & William K. Brown; Arthur & Jan Bye, Urban & Bye, Realtors; Danny DeRetis, Apartments @ Penn, Inc.; Drumcliff Foundation; Michael D. Hardy & Barry L. Grossbach; Genie & David Hochman; E. David Horwitz; Michael Levin; Sue & Jack Minnis; Elizabeth Stegner; Larry Gladney & Jackie Tanaka.**

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