

ON THE WEST SIDE

THE UNIVERSITY
CITY HISTORICAL
SOCIETY



July, 2007

<http://www.uchs.net>

Mike Hardy, Editor



GATHER ROUND DICKENS

On Saturday, July 21, abnormally cool weather, bright skies, a community welcome and lemonade in **Clark Park** greeted some 150 members of the world wide **Dickens Fellowship** attending their **101st International Conference** housed at the **University of Pennsylvania** as they began a bus tour of sites in Philadelphia associated with the novelist **Charles Dickens**.

Here to see and be seen with the only life-size statue of Charles Dickens in the world, they were met by six local “**Little Nells**” clothed in period dress and organized by **Jacqui Bowman**, director of the **University City Arts League**.



Shown with their lemonade for the enthusiastic Dickensians, are **Julia Sandler, Ella Comberg, Ella Serpell, Emily Jensen, and Ella & Sadie**

Peterson.

The occasion was masterminded by UCHS member and organizer of the annual **Dickens Birthday Party** sponsored by the **Friends of Clark Park, Bob Behr**, here shown addressing the crowd at the statue of



Dickens and his character from the **Old Curiosity Shop**. Bob had also enlisted the help of the statue's caretakers, the **Fairmount Park Art Association** and the city's **Public Art Department**, to insure that the statue's base was properly cleaned and with help from the local community, that all was spotless for the wreath laying, speeches and multiple picture takings.

Also on hand was UCHS member and local researcher, **Linda Blythe**, who has developed an illustrated presentation on the sculptor, **Frank Edwin Elwell (1858-1922)**, and his works which we hope to include in our website along with a reproduction of a group portrait of an earlier gathering of the Dickens Fellowship around the statue in the 1930's.

The celebration was followed in the evening by the return of the **Philadelphia Orchestra** to Clark Park for a concert marking the 10th anniversary of the **University City District**. All in all, a great time to be outside on a summer day in Clark Park, home to the statue since 1901.

SEPTEMBER WORKSHOPS

Are you planning to purchase and restore an older home? Are you in the midst of home renovation

looking for great how-to information? The **Preservation Alliance for Greater Philadelphia** is pleased to announce two upcoming series of workshops in September for owners, and aspiring owners, of older and historic homes. Attendees will have the opportunity to learn about the best practices for renovation of older and historic homes, as well as great hands-on demonstrations of maintenance and restoration techniques. These popular programs are free and open to the public, but seating is limited and reservations are required. The workshops are presented in collaboration with the **Fairmount Park Historic Preservation Trust, Cliveden of the National Trust, Chestnut Hill Historical Society, Germantown Historical Society, Historic Germantown Preserved** and **University City Historical Society**.

“HANDS ON” WORKSHOPS IN WEST FAIRMOUNT PARK, Tuesdays at 6:00 pm

Windows - Tuesday, September 4

Masonry, Pointing - Tuesday, September 11

Roofing - Tuesday, September 18

Wood Repair - Tuesday, September 25

Hands-On Workshops Location:

The Sheep Barn, Fairmount Park Historic Preservation Trust, Inc., 2020 Chamounix Drive, West Fairmount Park

(For directions contact the Preservation Alliance, or visit www.preservationalliance.com)

LECTURE WORKSHOPS AT CLIVEDEN

Wednesdays at 7 pm

Roofing - Wednesday September 5

Masonry, Pointing - Wednesday, September 12

Window Sash Repair - Wednesday, September 19

Energy Efficiency - Wednesday, September 26

Lecture Workshops Location:

Cliveden, 6401 Germantown Avenue

(Workshops at carriage house: enter property through the gate at Cliveden and Morton Streets)

To reserve a space, or for more information, please contact **Patrick Hauck, Director, Neighborhood Preservation Programs**, at 215-546-1146 x4 or patrick@preservationalliance.com.

NEED HELP? THINK TAP

This is the second year that UCHS is contracting with the **Community Design Collaborative (CDC)** to offer **UCHS’s TAP (Technical Assistance Program)** to owners of older properties who are considering exterior work on their historic homes. Not sure what the work could or should look like? Not sure what you can or should do and who might be best at the jobs? Looking for ideas for special materials and suppliers?

This fall UCHS members will have the opportunity to apply for two hours of personal consultation from design professionals (architects, landscape architects, preservationists, etc) who will inspect your property and discuss rehabilitation options.

The Community Design Collaborative (CDC) of the local chapter of the **American Institute of Architects (AIA)**. The program will require an application submitted to UCHS, along with supporting photos. Applications will be made available later this fall. If you are one of those chosen to receive services, you will be invited to one of the two **Design Days** in the fall where homeowners can consult with CDC pro-bono design professionals. The date of **UCHS’s Design Days** will be announced later; so start thinking now about your repair needs now!

Unfortunately, the number of properties to receive these services this year is limited by the number in the volunteer pool and only UCHS members are eligible to apply. If you know of someone who would be interested in this opportunity and are not a member, encourage them to join! Those selected from the applications received will be asked to pay a small fee for the services.

Additional information can be obtained by emailing UCHS at info@uchs.net or (215) 387-3019.

AND, HPRP

For both exterior repairs and restorations, if you are a low- or moderate-income homeowner and your residential property is in a historic district (check out “historic districts” at www.uchs.net), you can qualify for the **Historic Properties Repair Program**, administered by the **Preservation**

Alliance (more info at www.uchs.net) as well. If not, pass the word on to someone who might benefit from this special grant opportunity supporting historic properties in the city.

BOARD ELECTIONS

to **UCHS Board of Governors** are open to all UCHS member households using the ballot included in this newsletter. In addition to those veteran board members returning for another three year term, new members agreeing to fill positions of other lengths are **Judy Lamirand**, a graphic artist and active **Cedar Park Neighbor**, who lives at **4926 Cedar Avenue**; **Mo Phillips**, long time resident and history buff, at **4505 Regent Street**; **Maria Recio**, new homeowner and enthusiastic preservationist, at **4815 Trinity Place** and **Mark Wagenveld**, active in **Spruce Hill** and recent award winner for his porch restoration at **4308/10 Osage Avenue**.

All deserve your support by returning to UCHS the enclosed postcard/ballot marked for each by August 15, 2007 using a 25 cent stamp.

OLD HOUSE SOLUTIONS

Many common problems and questions about restoration of older houses can be found in the back issues of the *Old House Journal* which UCHS member, **Sylvia Elias**, recently presented to the society. UCHS now has a complete run of the *Old House Journal* from 1975 thru the first half of 2004 that may be consulted by old house owners by contacting UCHS. Additional donations to fill in the blanks before and after the dates above have been and continue to be welcomed.

TOUR THE TREES

For a guided ramble through **The Woodlands'** significant tree collection on Thursday, August 2, 2007, 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. beginning at **Woodlands' Mansion, 4000 Woodland Ave**, \$20 per person or \$15 for **Bartram's Garden** members.

This tour will provide background on The Wood-

lands' horticultural history and connections between **Bartram** and **Hamilton** and profile select specimens in a 750-tree arboretum planted by the **Woodlands Cemetery Company** after 1840. **Joel Fry, Curator and Archaeologist, Bartram's Garden**, and **Ken LeRoy, Certified Arborist, LeRoy Tree and Landscape Care**, will lead the walk through the cemetery grounds. Included are a light reception in the mansion and presentation of recent preservation projects at The Woodlands by **Jean Wolf, Executive Director**.



BOAT/KAYAK TOURS

Enjoy round-trip **Schulykill River Boat Tours** from the **Bartram Dock** at **Bartram's Garden** for a "**Secrets of the Schuylkill**" cruise - a one-hour fun and fact-filled tour aboard the **River Loop** highlighting the past, present, and future of **Philadelphia's Hidden River**. Before or after your cruise, stroll through America's oldest botanic garden, tour the **National Historic Landmark Bartram House**, or stop in the **Museum Shop** for soft drinks, snacks, kid-priced wares, books and gift items. Free parking and admission to grounds. Guided tour of Bartram House, \$5.

OR, hop in a kayak at the **Walnut Street Dock** and paddle downriver to Bartram's Garden. Disembark and enjoy a tour of the National Historic Landmark Bartram House and the botanic garden and a boxed lunch from **Walnut Bridge Coffee House** before paddling back to Walnut Street. Ticket price includes lesson, guided tour, equipment rental, lunch and Bartram House tour. Moderate to heavy exertion level. But you will need to purchase tickets in advance. For a full list of tours and tickets until November, 2007, including some summer kayak tours, go to www.bartramsgarden.org.

AND THANKS TO

those who recently joined or renewed their dues, especially those who made additional generous contributions as **Sustainers of UCHS: Drumcliff Foundation; Genie & David Hochman; Lindsay Johnston, On Common Ground Realtors;** or as **Friends of UCHS: Carol & Richard Betts; Scott Wilds & Martin Bodtmann; Joan Halbert & Paul Brooks; Mary McGettigan & Larry Caputo; Libby Rosof & Murray Dubin; Mary L. Goldman; Conrad & Lois Johnson Hamerman; Karin Boykin & George Karphy; Leon & Joanne Kellerman; Carolynne & Iman Kalifa Martin; Brian Yachyshen & Jacqueline McCrea; Mark & Angela Mills; Nancy Hanrahan & Judy Powers; David Ade & Paul Steinke; Thad & Kristen Metzler Wilson.**

AND LOOK OUT FOR

those deserving of thanks for new or in-process historically-sensitive facade repairs/improvements, including multicolored paint treatments which highlight architectural details.. Please no judgement on the colors or encouraging the painting of masonry!

If you send UCHS the property address, we can find the correct owner/ mailing address and send them a **“Gift to the Streets”** commendation letter. Just email (info@uchs.net), call (215) 387-3019 or mail it in (P.O. Pox 31927, 19104)

The same goes for new gardening and greening improvements, for which we will send them a **“Green Gift to the Streets”** commendation.

Those who do the right thing with the historic streetscape deserve all the thanks we can generate.

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