

ON THE WEST SIDE

THE UNIVERSITY
CITY HISTORICAL
SOCIETY



July, 2010

<http://www.uchs.net>

Mike Hardy, Editor

MARTIN LUTHER KING “FREEDOM NOW” MARKER DEDICATED



Mayor Michael Nutter and other dignitaries joined nearly 100 people who gathered at the intersection of **40th Street, Lancaster and Haverford Avenues** to unveil a historical marker, memorial bust and public mural dedicated to slain civil rights leader **Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.** Dr. King spoke to a crowd of 10,000 at the **West Philadelphia** site in August 1965 during his **Freedom Now Tour**.

The dedication ceremony held on June 19, 2010 included a live performance by the **Unique Miracles Drill Team** and words by **State Senator Vincent J. Hughes**. **John Gallery** of the **Preservation Alliance** joined **State Rep. Vanessa Lowery Brown**, **City Councilwoman Jannie Blackwell** and **Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission** Board member **Emanuel Kelly** on the program. Sculptor **Rebecca Rose**, mural artist **Cliff Eubanks** and **Jane Golden** of the **Mural Arts Program** were recognized for their contributions along with local

businesses and donors. **HUB Coalition Inc. of West Philadelphia** coordinated the two-year commemoration and the day's program.



IN THE STREETS

of **University City** this time of year, one can see a number of projects reflecting a renewed sensitivity to maintaining and restoring the street faces of our historic surroundings. At least five new porch restorations within a few blocks of one another have been reported and their owners and contractors commended and thanked by **UCHS** for these new **Gifts to the Streets**.

So if you spot historically-sensitive exterior improvements, including multi-colored paint schemes highlighting façade details, let us know and we will do the same for the owners responsible and their workmen, if known. And the same goes for greening and gardening improvements, **Green Gifts to the Streets**, which make an equal contribution to the quality of street life. In addition to our thanks, they receive a complementary membership in **UCHS** and its benefits, including an invite to next years' **UCHS Awards Tea** in **February, 2011**.

RIP TOUR PROPOSED



A UCHS “Renewals in Progress Tour” is being proposed for **Saturday, October 9, 2010, from 1 to 5 pm**. The **Board** is currently soliciting suggestions for properties whose owners have recently or are currently undertaking restorations and renewals of the interiors of their properties from **40th Street to 52nd Street in University City, West Philadelphia** (to keep the walking route within reason). Upon receipt of your suggestion, **UCHS** will contact their owners and determine if they are willing to open their houses on October 9, 2010 for paid visitors to inspect their work and provide contact information about their contractors, craftspeople and suppliers.

While those deserving of **Gift to the Streets** commendations may be included on the tour route, we are trying to showcase for our members and other tour goers the care and workmanship **University City** property-owners expend on their properties that are not usually open to the public.

So, remember to **Save the Date** above with further information available in the **September, 2010 edition of “On the West Side”** and to contact **UCHS**, you can write, phone or email, info@uchs.net.

UCHS BOARD ELECTIONS

If you are a member of **UCHS**, below is a ballot for this year’s slate of candidates for the **Board of Governors of UCHS**.

Among those asking to return for another 3-year term are current **UCHS Board Members**, **Ellie Cernansky, 930 S. 48th Street; Michael Jones, 311 N. 34th Street; Ray Perkins, 4518 Chester Avenue** and **Theresa Sims, 4614 Cedar Avenue**.

Both **Mark Wagenfeld, 4308/10 Osage Avenue**, and **Tim Wood, 7312 Emlen Street**, have asked to retire from the **Board** but remain as members of **UCHS**. We thank them for their special contributions.

Nominated as new members to the **Board** are **Kostis Kourelis of 4246 Pine Street** and **Mark Silber of 4213 Baltimore Avenue**. **Kourelis** and his family recently moved to 4246 Pine Street, formerly owned by his mother, where he is making historically sensitive improvements to the façade and front garden. He is a teacher of art, archeology and preservation at **Franklin and Marshall College in Lancaster, Pennsylvania**. He hopes to bring these same areas of interest and expertise to his new neighborhood. **Silber** is also occupying a family-owned property and is best known for his guided walking tours of **Spruce Hill, Baltimore Avenue, Garden Court, Powelton Village** and other areas of **University City**. Many of these are sponsored by the **University City District** and an upcoming one is being provided for the **Victorian Society**. He and the **Board** will be collaborating on providing more tours.

The **Nominating Committee** of the **UCHS Board** recommends the election of these six **UCHS** members to three year terms on the Board. Please indicate your agreement by placing a check next to those you endorse and returning this page to **UCHS** at the post office mailing address shown.

Or, if you are receiving this newsletter by email, please copy, mark and email your “ballot” below to info@uchs.net.

In both instances, please do so by August 15, 2010. Thank you.

__Ellie Cernansky, 930 S. 48th Street
 __Michael Jones, 311 N. 34th Street
 __Kostis Kourelis, 4246 Pine Street
 __Ray Perkins, 4518 Chester Avenue
 __Mark Silber, 4213 Baltimore Avenue
 __Theresa Sims, 4614 Cedar Avenue

LATEST NEWS FROM UCHS

Just sending you an update on our effort to get the older **Pennsylvania** state death certificates more accessible and also available online. So far there are 439 organizational supporters for this cause including **UCHS**. However, we still need individuals writing letters and sending emails (it all helps and never hurts to write more than once). As one state legislator told me, it's all about the squeaky wheel.

We are pushing this month to get the **PA State Legislature**, while it is still in session, to make death certificates after 50 years and possibly birth certificates after 100 years open records, even if they are not made available online right now. Just making them open records will not cost the **State of Pennsylvania** a penny. If anything it would actually increase revenues coming in because more people, including professional genealogists, would be able to request these records. The June 1st, 2010, entry on *The Latest News* section of our website explains this in more detail: <http://users.rcn.com/timarg/PaHR-Access.htm>.

By the way there are now fifteen states that have scanned images of their older state death certificates available online: **Arizona, Delaware, Georgia, Kentucky, Massachusetts, Michigan, Missouri, New Hampshire, North Carolina, Ohio, South Carolina, Texas, Vermont, Utah and West**

Virginia. Six other states have extracted data available online: **Washington, Alabama, Louisiana, New Mexico, Idaho and Florida. Arizona, Delaware, Vermont, Washington and West Virginia** now have scanned images of their older state birth records online. The links to the various states (except **Delaware** and **Vermont**) can be found on the *Death Certificates for Other States, Etc* section of our website. However, it will not happen in Pennsylvania unless we make enough noise about it.

Thank you for all your help. **Tim Gruber** 610-791-9294

Some local Pennsylvania representatives you might want to contact about this:

Senator Anthony Hardy Williams, williams@pasenate.com; **Senator Vincent J. Hughes**, hughes@pasenate.com; **Rep. James Roebuck**, 4712 Baltimore Ave. Philadelphia, PA 19143

AND THIS

To whom it may concern:

One afternoon, I found a black zipped folder with "*The Ben Franklin*" on the outside and a set of keys, some other items and a thumb drive inside. It was on the ground at **45th & Spruce Street**. Perhaps the person left it while getting a paper out of the newspaper box there and put it down. The reason I am contacting you is that I have reason to believe the owner may be doing some composing of material for your webpage. Do you know of anyone in your group who is doing this? The material seems to be on the **Trolley Suburbs of West Philly**.

Without being too nosy, I looked on the drive to find an address but there was none, nor even a name of the owner. The above is the best I can come up with. Best Regards, **Bill Rush** - hessian_bill@yahoo.com

WORTH YOUR CONSIDERATION

From The Preservation Alliance of
Greater Philadelphia,



PRESERVATION ALLIANCE

for greater philadelphia

www.preservationalliance.com

**A Sense of Place: Preserving
Philadelphia Neighborhoods**
Temple University Student Faculty Center
3340 N. Broad Street, 2nd Floor, Philadelphia,
PA - 8:30 AM to 3:30 PM

A conference for community leaders about preserving and celebrating Philadelphia's neighborhoods

Neighborhood leaders—mark your calendars! **Philadelphia** is a city of great neighborhoods and preserving their sense of place and distinctive character is key to sustaining a healthy community or achieving successful neighborhood revitalization.

When the **Preservation Alliance for Greater Philadelphia** presented our first every citywide conference in the spring of 2009, the response was positive and the event was very well received. With the interest in mind, we are very pleased to present our second citywide conference for community leaders about preserving and celebrating Philadelphia's neighborhoods.

If you are a neighborhood/community leader, you won't want to miss this opportunity to learn about the many resources available to strengthen and build upon the successes in your community by incorporating historic preservation into your tool kit.

The conference will feature:

-Educational Sessions

-Lunch with Keynote Speaker, Barbara Aylesworth, Healthy Neighborhoods, Baltimore, Maryland

-The Neighborhood Information Center: Meet with representatives from a variety of **Philadelphia** non-profit and governmental organizations that specialize in historic preservation, planning, design and organizational development. The Center will also feature a display of information boards to be produced by participating neighborhood and community organizations.

-Neighborhood Preservation Project

Competition! A limited number of \$1,500 grants will be awarded to a select group of organizations to support neighborhood preservation projects. More details and information on how to apply will be posted on the **Alliance** website above in the coming weeks.

The conference, funded by **The William Penn Foundation**, is in collaboration with:

City of Philadelphia, Office of Housing and Community Development

Community Design Collaborative

Partners for Sacred Places

Philadelphia Association of Community Development Corporations

Philadelphia City Planning Commission

National Trust for Historic Preservation

Temple University

The cost is \$20, including lunch.

More details and information on how to register will be posted on the **Alliance** website in the coming weeks.

More info: **Melissa Jest 215.546.1146 x6,**
melissa@preservationalliance.com

SPECIAL UCHS THANKS TO

those who recently renewed their dues by mail, and to those who added extremely generous contributions to their dues check as **Sustainers of UCHS**, and special thanks also to those who added very appreciated contributions as **Friends of UCHS**.

YOUR EMAIL PLEASE

If you haven't done so before, we would appreciate your sharing, at info@uchs.net, your latest email address to receive future issues of "*On the West Side*" and help us save postage, paper and the planet.

FOR YOUR PLEASURE:



FOR MY PLEASURE:



ON THE WEST SIDE

***THE UNIVERSITY CITY
HISTORICAL SOCIETY
P.O. BOX 31927
PHILADELPHIA, PA 19104***