

# ON THE WEST SIDE

THE UNIVERSITY  
CITY HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY



April, 2009

<http://www.uchs.net>

Mike Hardy, Editor

## UCHS TAP 2009

**Richard Dretsch, UCHS Board**

The **University City Historical Society (UCHS)** is, for the third year in a row, sponsoring a *Technical Assistance Program (TAP)* in partnership with the **Community Design Collaborative** of the local chapter of the **American Institute of Architects**. The TAP provides property owners with two hours of on-site, face-to-face consultation with an architect or building preservation expert.

Most of the residential buildings in **University City** are over a hundred years old. And while architectural character and history are, in part, what draw many of us to the area, older properties can be a serious technical and financial challenge to maintain. They have special maintenance needs and it can be difficult to know what should be fixed first, who to call, how much it will cost, and which parts of the project are possible to do on your own versus those best left to professionals. The TAP program is designed to address these types of questions.

Those who apply and are chosen to participate in the program will have the exterior of their property examined by a building professional who can offer advice on issues which, depending upon your needs, may include foundations and drainage, roofing and gutters, porch repair and painting, or any other exterior problems. Each consultation is followed up by a brief written report given to the property owner that outlines the TAP professional's findings.

Applying for TAP consultation is easy and inexpensive. It is one of the benefits of membership in UCHS, using the applications available in this newsletter and due by May 15, 2009. Applicants are asked to briefly describe their exterior renovation priorities and provide a handful of photographs documenting the existing condition of problem areas. **If you are chosen to participate in the program, you will be asked to pay a \$25 registration fee.** The dozen properties which receive these services this year is limited by the number of participating TAP building

professionals; UCHS will select applicants who demonstrate the greatest need.

The owners of the dozen properties chosen will be given dates for TAP consultations in the summer.

## MAY & SPRING IN UNIVERSITY CITY



### PARENT INFANT CENTER ANNUAL SPRING PLANT SALE

Friday, May 1, 2009, 3-6 pm; Saturday, May 2, 2009, 10 am – 3 pm

**PIC, 42<sup>nd</sup> & Spruce Streets**

Annuals, perennials, bedding plants, herbs, vegetables, hanging baskets

Over the past six years, PIC families have raised over \$105,000 through the annual spring plant sale to benefit the **PIC Scholarship Fund**. During that time, this has allowed PIC to fulfill their commitment of service to our community by helping to provide quality early childhood education to 95 families in our neighborhood.

(215) 222-5480

### UNIVERSITY CITY ARTS LEAGUE AUCTION AND DINNER, 2009

Saturday, May 2, 2009 – 6 pm, Preview Dinner (reservation required);

7 pm – Silent Auction; 8 pm – Live Auction

**Wilson Student Center, University of the Sciences in Philadelphia,  
42<sup>nd</sup> & Woodland Avenue**

Costs: Auction tickets, \$10 adult, Dinner \$40/person (other prices available)

Reply to: [www.ucartsleague.org](http://www.ucartsleague.org), (215) 382-7811 by

April 20, 2009

**UC GREEN COMMUNITY  
TREE PLANTING**

Saturday, May 2, 2009

9 am – 1 pm

**Sounders Park Greene**

**39th & Powelton Avenue & Baring Street**

*(accessible via SEPTA it's a short 2 block walk from the # 10 trolley; get off at 38th & Lancaster Avenue and walk one block south down to 38th Powelton Ave. and one block west on Powelton to 39th & Powelton till you reach the park which is located across the street from the University of Pennsylvania Presbyterian Hospital; Or take the El to 40th & Market, walk north on 40th Street to 40th & Powelton Ave., then walk 2 blocks over to 39th & Powelton to the park.)*

Help us plant 100 trees in one day!

Help reduce storm water runoff and clean the air!

To learn about other **UC Green Spring Community**

**Tree Plantings** (on Saturday, April 25, Thursday, April 29 and Friday, May 1, 2009), go to [www.ucgreen.org](http://www.ucgreen.org) and click "calendar") or call (215) 473-4584



**10<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL PARTY FOR THE PARK**

Thursday, May 7, 2009

**University of the Sciences in Philadelphia  
600 S. 43<sup>rd</sup> Street**

Sponsored by the **Friends of Clark Park, University City District,** and the **University of the Sciences in Philadelphia.**

5:30 to 8:00 pm; Cocktails, Hors d'oeuvres, Silent Auction, Entertainment

For the past nine years, net proceeds from the Party for the Park have vastly improved the quality of **Clark Park**, our children's lives and our neighborhood. Proceeds pay for supplemental park maintenance: mowing grass, edging walkways, weeding, fertilizing, mulching trees, emptying trash cans, and seasonal clean-ups. Over the past nine years, park advocates and donors have raised more than

\$400,000 to supplement the maintenance of Clark Park. Thanks to these contributions, the appearance, health, and vitality of the park continue to improve. But, ongoing maintenance, such as mowing grass, edging walkways, weeding, mulching, fertilizing, tree plantings, and emptying trashcans, cannot continue without these contributions. In addition, a long-term endowment exists and continues to grow each year for capital improvements. For more information on this year's party, go to [www.toursignup.com/clarkpark](http://www.toursignup.com/clarkpark)

Purchase tickets (beginning at \$75) online by May 1, 2009 or at (215) 243-0555

**51<sup>ST</sup> ANNUAL MAY FAIR  
IN CLARK PARK**

Saturday, May 9, 2009

**Clark Park, 43<sup>rd</sup> and Baltimore Avenue**

11 am – 4 pm,

Sponsored by the **Spruce Hill Community Association**

Join **UCHS** and other organizations, projects and merchants at this annual celebration of spring and major fund-raiser with all proceeds going for activities such as block clean ups, block improvement efforts, public safety initiatives and support for neighborhood schools and parks. UCHS will have available reproductions of neighborhood maps, UCHS mugs, date plaques, **TAP** applications, membership forms and **UCHS/UCD Welcome** packets for new residents and other information.

**WALKING TOUR OF THE ATGLEN &  
SUSQUEHANNA RAILROAD  
(THE LOW GRADE LINE)**

Sponsored by **UCHS, Philadelphia Parks Alliance, Sierra Club, Pa Environmental Council, Green Space Alliance, AIA, American Society of Landscape Architects, Preservation Alliance, East Coast Greenway, Schuylkill River Greenway Association.**

Saturday, May 16, 2009

8 am until dinner, limit of 12 participants, \$25, UCHS members

All day walking tour with **Bob Thomas** of former **Pennsylvania RR** line, which stretches across southern **Lancaster County**, recently sold to the local townships for future trail development. We'll view the extraordinary bridges, culverts and trestles built at the dawn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, enjoy great views of the **Susquehanna River**, picnic out in the countryside and have dinner with a discussion of land, trail and park planning in Lancaster County.

Rated Moderate Difficulty; Moderate walk on trails

& railbeds. Pre-registration required (limit of 12 participants)

Info/reservations: (215) 879-8159 (mention UCHS)

### THIRD SUNDAY IN THE GARDEN

Sponsored by **UC Green, University of the Sciences in Philadelphia**

Sunday, May 17, 2009

**USP Lower Mill Creek Garden, 43<sup>rd</sup> & Chester Avenue**

1 – 4 pm

Part of on-going monthly “openings” of the USP garden to the general public for gardening and greening events & programs. Today’s is a neighborhood plant swap. Bring one to give away, take one away, or more. Potted plants, named if possible, preferred.

For more information and other dates: (215) 573-4684, [www.ucgreen.org](http://www.ucgreen.org)

### MORE BOB THOMAS WALKING TOURS

Co-sponsored by **UCHS & others**

#### GAZEBOS ALONG

#### THE SCHUYLKILL RIVER

Thursday, June 11, 2009

5:30 – 7 pm. Meet at rear entrance to Philadelphia Museum of Art

\$15, UCHS members

As the **Schuylkill River** leaves the coastal plain, it enters the more rugged **Piedmont**, where our Victorian predecessors built several gazebos north of the **Art Museum** which afford wonderful sunset views. Two are well known, but two rarely visited. Join Bob Thomas on a late afternoon walking tour past historic sites to these great river views. We’ll see newly restored gazebos above the **Waterworks**, and the improved views from **Lemon Hill**. We’ll conclude with an optional dinner at a local restaurant and discussion of the restoration of the gazebos and cliff-side paths.

Rated Moderate Difficulty: Park trails and sidewalks  
Information/reservations: (215) 879-8159 (mention UCHS)

### AND WITH DETAILS IN THE NEXT “ON THE WEST SIDE”:

Saturday, July 11, 2009

#### SECRET BEACHES AND FORGOTTEN VILLAGES OF THE JERSEY SHORE

Saturday, August 1, 2009

#### BY FERRY AND FOOT TO PEA PATCH ISLAND

Thanks to **Teresa Sims, UCHS Board member** for making these arrangements.

## A GREENER

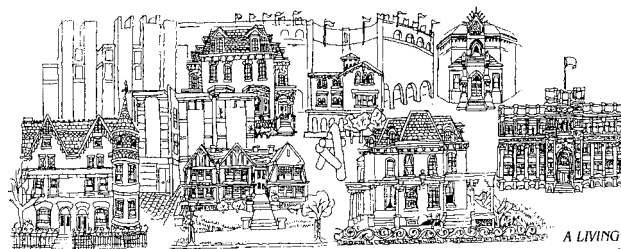
### “ON THE WEST SIDE”

If you are receiving this copy of “**On the West Side**” by “snail mail,” it’s because we don’t have an active email address for you or anyone in your household, or you have asked that we use the **US Post Office** to get you the news. If you would like us to reach you with “green-energy” (non-polluting email) in the future (with color pictures and our “On the West Side” newsletter), please drop us a line at [info@uchs.net](mailto:info@uchs.net) with your correct email address and we will meet your request to “save the planet.”

And, seriously, we would like to save the money for stamps and our tongues too.

## AND THANKS TO

those who renewed their dues recently and especially to those who contributed generous extra contributions as **Sustainers of UCHS: Rod Boston, Boston Design & Construction, Inc.; Margaret Kasschau & Donald Gillis; Donald Stevens; Belynda Stewart** and to those who also contributed as **Friends of UCHS: Greg & Mary Berzinsky, Berzinsky Architects, Inc.; Robert & Anita Brothers; Natalie Costa & Amy Laura Cahn; William F. Hooper; Brian Ratigan & Melani Lamond; John & Betsy Mc Coubrey; Carolynne E. & Iman Martin; Arlene & Don Matzkin; Liz Campion & Larry Motyka; John Puckett & Karin Schaller; Craig Carnaroli & Amie Thornton; Stephen Wagner; Woodland Presbyterian Church**



THE UNIVERSITY CITY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

A LIVING  
HISTORY OF  
ARCHITECTURE  
1789 - 2000

# Technical Assistance Program

Residential Property Owner Application  
University City Historical Society

## Property Owner Information

Date:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Work \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_ Home \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Work \_\_\_\_\_ Home \_\_\_\_\_

## Property Description

Return completed application to:

University City  
Historical Society  
PO Box 31927  
Philadelphia PA 19104

Neighborhood: \_\_\_\_\_

Property Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
*(Property must be owned by applicant.)*

Year Built: \_\_\_\_\_  National Register District  Local Register

Purchase date: \_\_\_\_\_

Property type:  Corner building  Stand Alone  Twin  Row  Multi Family  Single Family

Materials:  Brick  Stucco  Concrete  Masonry  Wood Frame

Photos: Please attach up to 10 photos that show the overall facade and areas that you'd like addressed.

## Improvement Priorities

Application Deadline:  
**May 15, 2009**

Describe your current concerns or needs regarding the exterior of the property:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Have you received any bids or quotes? \_\_\_\_\_

Do you have interest in doing any work yourself? \_\_\_\_\_

Approximate budget:  Desired start date for improvements:

Exterior improvements which you are interested in addressing (please number, with 1 being highest priority):

Windows  Doors  Cleaning  Painting  Lighting

Bays  Porches  Trim/Detail  Masonry/Pointing  Walls

Visible Roof  Accessibility  Landscaping  Energy Savings  Total Reconstruction

Other (please note): \_\_\_\_\_

**Demographic Information (Optional)**

Age: Profession:

Household Income: Family members:

Resident since:

Have you completed other home improvement projects?

Have you engaged professional design services before?

How did you hear about the Design Days consultation?

**Terms of Agreement**

*Please sign and date this application and return it to UCHS if you wish to be matched with a design consultant through the Technical Assistance Program. Applications are processed in the order received.*

*By signing this letter the PROPERTY OWNER is informing UCHS that the undersigned applicant has an interest in participating in a 1-2 Hour Consultation as organized by UCHS.*

*This letter of intent is not a final commitment by either party to undertake renovations in accordance with home improvement program policies, procedures and design guidelines. The PROPERTY OWNER desires to pursue the program by participating in the preliminary design consultation offered by volunteers of the Community Design Collaborative (Collaborative).*

*All applications must be signed by the PROPERTY OWNER. A fee of \$25 will be due upon selection.*

*Collaborative products are intended to provide concepts and to assist in project design and planning. All consultation advice is limited to conceptual design and is neither intended nor may be used for construction. Neither the Collaborative, nor its volunteers, assume responsibility or liability for the technical accuracy of work or any*

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Signature of Property Owner Printed Name Date

**Renovation Information Network Pilot**

*Technical Assistance Program A pilot initiative of the Community Design Collaborative to test the application of the Pittsburgh Community Design Center's Renovation Information Network (RIN) in Philadelphia neighborhoods.*

*The University City Historical Society, [www.uchs.net](http://www.uchs.net) A community-based organization that supports the activities of the members of the University City community in their efforts to preserve and promote the architectural heritage of West Philadelphia.*

*The Community Design Collaborative of AIA Philadelphia, [www.cdesignc.org](http://www.cdesignc.org) A nonprofit volunteer based community design center that provides pro bono preliminary design services to nonprofits in the Philadelphia region.*



# SPRING PRESERVATION WORKSHOPS

The **University City Historical Society** and the **Preservation Alliance for Greater Philadelphia** are hosting four “hands on” workshops in **West Philadelphia** on four Thursday nights at 6 pm at the **Calvary Center, 801 S. 48th Street (48th & Baltimore)**. These are free but require reservations at (215) 546-1146, x6 or [Patrick@perservationalliance.com](mailto:Patrick@perservationalliance.com) or [Melissa@preservationalliance.com](mailto:Melissa@preservationalliance.com)

Thursday, April 16 - Self-inspection of Historic Properties

Thursday, April 23 - Historic Windows

Thursday, April 30 - Masonry & Pointing

Thursday, May 7 - Traditional Roof Repairs

Lecture workshops are also available in **Queen Village (Weccacoe Playground Bldg, 400 block of Catherine Street)**, Wednesdays, 7 pm



Wednesday, April 15 – Energy & Resource Efficiency in Older Homes

Wednesday, April 23 – Masonry & Lime Mortars

Wednesday, April 29 – Insuring Older & Historic Homes

Wednesday, May 6 – Repairing Historic Windows & Replacement Options

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## *ON THE WEST SIDE*

*THE UNIVERSITY CITY*

*HISTORICAL SOCIETY*

*P.O. BOX 31927*

*PHILADELPHIA, PA 19104*