

ON THE WEST SIDE

THE UNIVERSITY CITY HISTORICAL SOCIETY



January, 2013

<http://www.uchs.net>

Joseph Minardi, Editor

Valentine Tea and Awards Presentation Sunday, February 17, 2013, 3:00-5:00 P.M.

The University City Historical Society is proud to host its annual Valentine Tea and Awards ceremony at The Castle (48th and Springfield Avenue) on February 17, 2013 from 3:00 to 5:00 P.M. The event is free to all UCHS members and is a great opportunity to meet with members of the University City community and partake of some delicious homemade sweets and other delectable treats. As with all UCHS events, items such as mugs, posters, and books will be available for sale. And if you would like to nominate yourself or any of your neighbors for one of the major awards, feel free to contact the UCHS at info@uchs.net.

The Castle, 48th and Springfield Avenue



Photograph by Joseph Minardi

The Castle, as it appeared in 1907.



Celebration of a University City Trailblazer

Sylvia A. Barkan, "Her City, Her Home" December 28 - January 8
University City Arts League, 4226 Spruce Street

December 28, 2012 marked the opening night of an exhibit celebrating the life and legacy of Sylvia A. Barkan (1916-2012) and her incredible body of work. The opening night festivities tested the capacity of the University City Arts League gallery, with dozens of art lovers, friends, relatives, and dignitaries in attendance, a testament to Sylvia's influence and admiration in the neighborhood. Sylvia, a residents of 47th and Osage for 63 years, was a founding member of the Arts League and was active in the organization's affairs up until her 95th year. She was also instrumental in the formation of the University City Historical Society.

The retrospective of Sylvia's artistic career included 114 pieces including a wide variety of styles, techniques, and topics. But the most prominently featured subject was the one that was near and dear to her heart, the beloved architecture of University City. The exhibition was curated by her son, Jonathan, and his daughter, Sophie. Sylvia's oldest son, Howard, was also in attendance and entertained the audience with two guitars solos. The UCHS was well-represented at the gathering with new president Melani Lamond giving a brief dissertation on the contributions of Sylvia to the UCHS's founding. State Representative James Roebuck also gave a speech of gratitude for all Sylvia A. Barkan has done for the good of her neighborhood in West Philadelphia.



Sylvia A. Barkan, 1916 - 2012
HER CITY, HER HOME



Opening night: University City Arts League Executive Director, Noreen Shanfelter standing next to Jonathan Barkan with older brother Howard Barkan (second from right).



Musical interlude: Sylvia Barkan's oldest son, Howard, at the guitar.



UCHS President Melani Lamond, expressing gratitude to the large gathering for Sylvia's work in the founding of both the University City Arts League and the UCHS.

Invitation: a view of University City by Sylvia A. Barkan adorns the invitation for her retrospective by the University City Arts League.



Fortieth Street M.E. Church at 140 South 40th Street, slated for demolition.

Photograph by Joseph Minardi

Olde Time Recipes

Tried and Tested Recipes by the Ladies of the Methodist Episcopal Church of the Advocate, Philadelphia (published November 1907).

Corn muffins:

one cup of flour,
one half-cup of cornmeal,
two teaspoons of baking-powder,
one-half teaspoon of salt,
two tablespoons of sugar,
one egg,
one cup of milk,
one tablespoon of butter

Mix all dry ingredients together, rub in the butter; mix this with the egg, then milk. Place in pans or well-greased muffin tins, and bake [at 400°] for twenty minutes.

Potato biscuits:

one cup of mashed potatoes,
one cup of liquid yeast (stir with the potatoes),
one quarter cup of butter,
two teaspoons of sugar,
two eggs, well beaten,
one half-teaspoon of salt,
flour [about two cups]

Mix potatoes and yeast together and let stand fifteen minutes; then add all of the rest and mix together with flour enough to make a soft dough. Not let it stand until it gets light, then make into biscuits and get light again, then bake [400°] for about fifteen minutes.

HISTORIC CHURCH TO BE DEMOLISHED

An historic church located on 40th and Sansom Streets is slated for demolition, that is if developers get their way. The 40th Street Methodist Episcopal Church was built in a simplified Gothic Revival style in 1872 by the firm of Sloan & Hutton, consisting of two of Philadelphia's most prominent 19th-century architects, Samuel Sloan and Addison Hutton. The church was built at a time of explosive suburban growth in this part of West Philadelphia. It ceased to be used as a house of worship in 2007 and was sold to P&A Associates for \$2 million. The original plan was to preserve the building while obtaining new tenants and making only minor modifications. The plan fell through after not being able to find any buyers and the church is soon to be razed for a small one-story commercial development by CANNO Architects + Design.

The UCHS Historic Streetscapes Committee

Marking the construction dates of properties in University City's historic districts is only one part of UCHS's Historic Streetscapes Committees. UCHS encourages University City residents to preserve the character of our historic neighborhoods by following appropriate preservation techniques, keeping the streets, yards, and sidewalks free of trash, by using the porches of their turn-of-the-century homes with appropriate furnitures; and by planting and maintaining gardens, greenery, and trees in and around those homes.

UCHS Oral History Project

University City is full of interesting stories and the UCHS is looking to gather as many memories as we can.

The UCHS is looking for individuals to participate in their oral history project. The goal of this project is to systematically collect testimonies of longtime residents of University City, and to analyze, verify and place them in an accurate historical context. If you or someone you know would like to volunteer in information gathering or know of someone who has stories to tell, please contact the UCHS.

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University City: Then & Now



Black Oak Park (1907)



Bob Skiba, President of the Association of Philadelphia Tour Guides, shown here speaking before the gathering at the UCHS Victorian Tea on November 11 at the Spruce Hill Manor. Mr. Skiba gave a very "illuminating" presentation about the International Electrical Exhibition, held in Philadelphia from September 2 to October 11, 1884.



Malcolm X Park, formerly Black Oak Park (2010)

