



## Valentine's Tea Award Ceremony 2022

UCHS is delighted to announce that our annual Gift to the Street Awards will return in 2022! Due to continued concerns about the COVID-19 Virus and the Omicron outbreak we decided the safest option was to hold the Valentine's Tea Award Ceremony 2022 virtually via Zoom. We at UCHS will forward a link for our members as the event approaches.

We invite your nominations for worthy properties and people. There are three types of awards and as always, we are enlisting your help to find worthy nominees. The Mike Hardy Preservation Initiative Award is given to a person or group of people who have acted unselfishly towards the preservation of a building or historic neighborhood resource in West Philadelphia. The Outstanding Preservation Award is given to acknowledge an exceptional building restoration. The Gift to the Street Award is given out as a grassroots spotlight on houses and commercial buildings in our neighborhood that have received partial restoration, perhaps of a porch, garden, a roof or windows. Please consider nominating yourself or your neighbors for any of these awards by emailing us at [info@uchs.net](mailto:info@uchs.net). Details will be provided in our next newsletter and by email.



Some photos of previous winners. **Left to right**, Kathy Dowdell, architect and past UCHS president; Oscar Tabaras Reyes, contractor; the late Mike Hardy, community and environmental advocate for whom we have renamed the Preservation Initiative Award. *Joseph Minardi, photographer.*

## Heritage West: Penn Partnering with Neighbors

Heritage West: The West Philadelphia Community Archaeology Project is a community archaeology and heritage program developed by faculty and students at the University of Pennsylvania in partnership with the People's Emergency Center CDC, the Black Bottom Tribe Association, and University City Arts League. Over the next several years, they will seek to link past and present through the collaborative exploration of three interrelated themes: the late 19th-century formation of Black communities, 20th-century struggles over homes and housing due to redlining and gentrification, and 21st-century community persistence and renewal. Through conversations and pop-up public history events, a community archive, and a local excavation

at a location determined by the community, their project builds on the legacy of previous and ongoing public history programs undertaken at Penn. However, their emphasis on an archaeological perspective that links the materials and heritage of the recent past with present communities is unique, placing the contemporary problems of gentrification and systemic racism within a broader historical and material context. Their website is <https://www.heritagewestphl.org/>, and you can follow our work and find information about future events on Instagram (@heritagewestphl) or Facebook (@HeritageWestPHL).



**Left**, Gerald "Sid" Bolling of the Black Bottom Tribe Association adds to a community timeline at a public history event on Lancaster Avenue (Photo Credit: Meg Kassabaum). **Right**, "A Very Vintage Holiday" announcement.



# Member News

Welcome to 2022's New and Renewed Members:

Deirdre Aaron  
Joseph Arters  
David Othmer & Maureen Barden  
Fred Allen Barfoot  
Debra Breslin  
Mary McGettigan & Larry Caputo, MD  
Manuel Diaz Corrada  
Murray & Libby Dubin Rosof  
Lewis Fishgold  
Jacob Gantz  
Jeanette Gillison  
Ivy Gray-Klein  
Sylvia Hamerman-Brown  
Ann Kell  
Elaine Lander  
Lisa Mathewson  
Anita McKelvey  
Betty Moloznik  
Glen Muschio  
Julie Orts  
Anurag Sagar  
Tobias Schulze-Cleven  
Martin Seligman  
Charles A. Thrall & Sally A. Simmons  
Elyana Tarlow  
Carrie Waterman  
J. Matthew Wolfe  
Jeffrey Young  
Randy Zauhar & Jenny Yu

## 2021 Donations to UCHS – Thank You!

Eric Cohen & Anne Pomerantz  
Roger & Joyce Converse  
Freda R. Egnal  
Robert Glorioso  
Michael D. Hardy & Barry L. Grossbach  
Debra and Rich McCarty Stasiorowski  
Bettsy & Steve McCoubrey  
Mark McGuire  
George Poulin  
John Puckett & Karin Schaller  
Tim Siftar  
Maureen Tate  
Marianna Thomas  
Helma Weeks

Question? Ideas? Contact us at  
[info@UCHS.net](mailto:info@UCHS.net)

# UCHS Fall Event: Black Bottom Panel Discussion

UCHS wishes to thank everyone who attended our November 18 Black Bottom Panel Discussion. Our 130 event attendees were the largest audience UCHS has ever had.

Our panelists -

- Dr. John Puckett, moderator
- Gerald "Sid" Bolling
- Dr. Edward Epstein
- Dr. Walter Palmer

Joseph Minardi, UCHS video editor.



You can view the event on the UCHS YouTube Channel.

We thank the members of the Black Bottom Tribe and Penn professors who are working to keep the history of the neighborhood alive.

# Ask the Experts

## Papering and Paneling

**Q:** Our Victorian house was remuddled with simulated-wood panelling. When we removed one section around a doorway, the plaster pulled away from the lath. I am afraid that if we went ahead and pulled all of the panelling down, all the plaster would come with it. And we don't want to remove all the plaster and put up new wallboard.

I have gotten two suggestions for wallpapering over the panelling. One is to put on a skim coat of joint compound, then size and paper. The other is to put up liner paper and wallpaper over that. What do you think? Would I be able to remove the wallpaper later?

**A:** Wallpapering over composition-board panelling is problematic. The wallboard will expand and contract with changes in the humidity, and cause the paper to blister. Unfortunately, this problem is unavoidable. A layer of lining paper under the wallpaper might help to take some of the stress, especially at the joints of the panelling. But the real determining factor for the longevity of your papering job is the temperature and humidity of your home. A coat of joint compound is definitely a bad idea. It shrinks when it dries and so is unsuitable for the covering of large surfaces. Moreover, even with sizing, moisture from the wallpaper paste would resoften some of the compound and cause failures even before you could complete the job.

From *The Old-House Journal*, October 1981.





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UNIVERSITY CITY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

# *On The West Side*

## **West Philly Through the Lens** Baltimore Avenue, east of 51st Street, 1909

Joseph Minardi photo collection.



The photo above depicts Baltimore Avenue looking east from 51st Street. The buildings on the left are commercial stores with dwellings above. Some of the businesses on the block are H. Johnston's saloon, a cigar store, a hardware store, and a pool room. In the distance is the bell tower of what is now the Hickman Temple AME Church at 50th and Baltimore Avenue.

## **Our YouTube Channel**

Check out the University City Historical Society's YouTube channel for great videos such as our Oral History Project and UCHS updates and events. And be sure to click the subscribe button.



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