



Spruce Hill Community Association

Fall 2008

257 S. 45th St., Phila. PA 19104

www.sprucehillca.org

215-349-7825

UC Green Turns 10, Still Growing Strong

Editor's note: Wherever you see green, UC Green probably has been working over the past decade. SHCA has always been a close ally. In honor of UC Green's milestone, we happily devote space to recapping its history.

**By Mike Hardy
Chair, UC Green**

This fall marks the tenth anniversary of UC Green, the area's proud promoter of community greening. UC Green was launched in autumn 1998 by the University of Pennsylvania's Facilities and Real Estate Services. The organization's first executive director was Esaul Sanchez, a Penn staffer and Spruce Hill resident. Sanchez had previously been director of UC Brite, Penn's block-based neighborhood lighting initiative.

Esaul, with boundless energy and good will, mobilized Penn students, University staffers, representatives of city agencies and institutions, as well as neighborhood gardeners like my-



Mayor Nutter (behind the hand) helps with a recent UC Green tree-planting.

self. We brought our experience with efforts such as Tree Tenders, the Spruce Hill Garden Club, and Baltimore Avenue in Bloom.

One of the very first sites we tackled was a public "gateway" landscape at 3900 Woodland Avenue. Under the leadership of Spruce Hill gardener Michelle Murphy, we in-

stalled a serpentine planting of "exotics," inspired by the historical example of William Hamilton, the 18th century Pennsylvania landowner who imported foreign botanical specimens to decorate his estate. The gateway garden complemented a previous installation at 3900 Baltimore Ave. of plants introduced into cultivation by the Bartrams of nearby Bartram Gardens, the nation's first nursery.

Another early UC Green project rejuvenated a derelict playground at the corner of 45th and Sansom Streets, then one of the most blighted and dangerous areas in University City. We convened a multi-racial and multi-cultural coalition drawn from the surrounding blocks, where residents were battling abandonment, drugs and gun violence. Together, we cleaned, renewed and greened a "tot lot," the only recreational facility for scores of neighborhood children, including some from the nearby mosque and from transitional housing facilities

(continued on page 4)



The 4100 block of Powelton Avenue, before and after tree-planting. UC Green, Jannie Blackwell and others renewed the "tot lot" (right) at 45th and Sansom



A Decade of NeighborWood Achievements

UC Green, begun in 1998, obtained non-profit status in 2004. It has:

- ❖ Engaged 5,000 volunteers in over 15,000 hours of community greening
- ❖ Planted 2,075 trees, plus 15,000 bulbs and perennials
- ❖ Volunteer labor worth \$280,000
- ❖ Boosted property values \$28 million
- ❖ Developed weekly summer Pruning Club. Hand-pruned 50 city blocks
- ❖ Restored trees to 25 urban blocks
- ❖ Removed 34,000 sq. ft. of concrete to create new tree pits
- ❖ Developed UC Green Corps summer youth employment program
- ❖ 21 large-scale tree plantings at schools, recreation centers, public health facilities throughout University City, West and Southwest Philadelphia.
- ❖ 18 smaller-scale tree planting events
- ❖ Held 62 garden workdays and coordinated corporate-sponsored projects
- ❖ Grew e-mail newsletter list to over 1000 subscribers
- ❖ Created greening websites
- ❖ Block improvement projects in Spruce Hill, Cedar Park and West Shore





Spotlight On...

FOUR WORLDS BAKERY

Asthma Prevention Program

What: Free 3-day workshop for parents, caregivers and children over age 5 with asthma. Asthma spacer, allergen-proof mattress cover and resource guide will be provided.

Sponsors: Jubilee School, 4211 Chester Ave, and Studio 34, 4522 Baltimore Ave.

When: Saturdays, September 6, 13, and 20

Info and register: Victoria Woodson-LaFair, 215-387-7592

ooo

Homeowner Workshops

Sponsor: Preservation Alliance for Greater Philadelphia's free how-to programs for owners of older homes.

Info and register: Patrick Hauck at 215-546-1146 ext. 4 or patrick@preservationalliance.com.

What and

when: Masonry and pointing, Sept. 9, 7 p.m.; Maintaining historic porches, Sept. 16, 7 p.m.; Interior plaster, Sept. 23, 7 p.m.



Where: Calvary Center for Culture and Community, 801 S.48th Street

What and when: Energy efficiency, Sept 10, 7 p.m.; Philadelphia row house manual, Sept. 17, 7 p.m.; Windows, doors and exterior wood repair; Sept. 24, 7 p.m.

Where: Weccacoe Playground Building, 400 Block of Catherine Street

ooo

City Gardening Series

Sponsor: The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society's free educational programs.

What and when: Festive fall planters for porches and balconies, Sept. 10, 6-7 p.m.

Where: Philadelphia City Institute Free Library of Philadelphia, 1905 Locust St.



(continued on page 3)

The founder and owner of Four Worlds Bakery started out on a completely different career path.

"I was a trial lawyer for 10 years," Michael Dolich says. "I just couldn't stand sitting at a desk all day."

Two summers ago, while in the Catskills thinking about reinventing himself, he accidentally did. He began making bread, guided only by *The Joy of Cooking*. Friends couldn't get enough of the dense, flavorful, complex loaves. Soon, Dolich was milling his own flours from organic grains and expanding into challah, bagels, focaccia, babka, rugelach, croissants.

Le Bec Fin restaurant hired him as a baker. But loyal "breadies" kept emailing him their orders, and word spread about the guy who made the staff of life to die for.

Ambushed by success, Dolich, 38, decided to make a major investment in Four Worlds Bakery. In July, he moved it from his University City home kitchen into an industrial-strength, eco-conscious version that he set up in a renovated storage shed behind Kaffa Crossing Cafe, the Ethiopian coffee shop and restaurant.

Not that "challahman," as Dolich calls himself on his blog, is in business for the dough. At first glance his prices (\$5 to \$7 per loaf) may seem



photo by Ryan Brandenburg

Michael Dolich's bread bakery has risen fast since he quit the legal field

somewhat higher than those of other artisan bakeries, but in fact, his hefty loaves have much more weight by volume. That's because he slows down the crucial magic of breadmaking – yeast fermentation – by cooling the dough as it rises.

He also purposely keeps his volume low. Although Kaffa and a few select retail spots now offer his hand-crafted products, most are sold in advance online or by telephone, thus ensuring freshness and eliminating waste. Dolich hates waste so much that he never throws away unsold loaves – "unheard of in the bakery business," he proudly notes. The few leftovers are frozen and sold at a discount.

"I'm still torn about how big I want to grow the business," he says. "It's attractive to me not to do any marketing."

Location: Four Worlds Bakery at Kaffa Crossing, 4423 Chestnut St.

Phone: 215-967-1458

Info: www.fourworldsbakery.com



It's Time to Form a New "Watchdog" Group

In one of her goofier songs, folk-pop singer Jane Siberry says she thinks of her dog when she sees sunsets, cockroaches, old folks and just about everything else:

*Everything reminds me of my dog.
The guy in the store reminds me of my dog.
Telephones remind me of my-dog...yoo-hoo.
Taxicabs remind me, too.*

I hate to admit it, but my husband and I inspired this song. (Okay, we didn't, but could have.) We dote on our beagle Bailey more than we ever did on our now-grown kids. We baby-talk to him and call him "the puppy," even though his muzzle is going gray. When we go on vacation (without him), we talk about him incessantly and ask to stroke strangers' pooches just to get our furry fix.

I confide this nauseating stuff to make it clear that I love dogs.

It's people I hate. People who watch their dogs defecate and then blithely walk Fido or Fluffy away from the malodorous mess. People who let their dogs pee on lovingly-tended plants.

True, the latter offense is not illegal, but it certainly isn't neighborly. While the dog is innocently voiding or marking its turf, the plant is being nuked by nitrogen. A week of squirts, that greenery is history.

Gently pull on the leash and the dog will happily redirect toward weeds, a fire hydrant, telephone pole, fence, porch, trashcan, curb, or your shoes.

The owners of one of the hand-somest houses in Spruce Hill – a big, unattached corner property – have been foiled (or soiled) in their attempts to plant groundcover along

their wrought iron fence, and between the sidewalk and curb. Recently, they posted small signs on the fence, begging neighbors to keep dogs "off the plants and mulch."

"We love seeing you and your dogs," the signs say. "However, we have learned that the ground outside our fence is saturated with dog urine and feces which have such a high pH



factor that the soil has eroded, making it difficult to grow any plants or green ground cover. We are attempting to grow plants in this space because of our love of plants, not because of any disdain for dogs...Many thanks for your consideration and good will."

In my experience, signs don't help much. Several weeks ago, I posted tactful reminders (pictured here) on the split rail fence surrounding the community garden at 45th and Sansom Streets, which I enjoy tending. Loads of poo continue to appear within view of the signs.

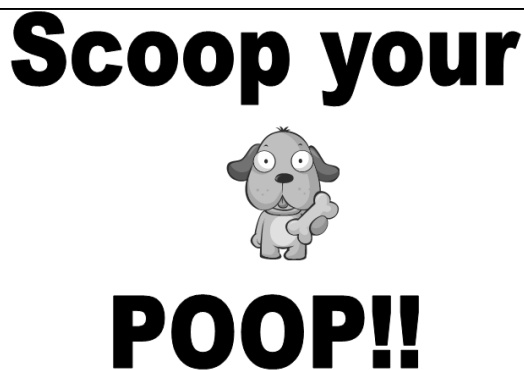
Would plastic bag dispensers curb this anti-social human behavior, which in Philly is subject to a \$300 maximum fine? Maybe.

But here's a better idea. All of us who conscientiously

scoop the poop (and please, divert the squirt) should carry our cell phone cameras as we walk our pets. We're bound to digitally capture some scofflaws in action.

The slogan of our new watchdog group could be: "No s__ _!"

Marie McCullough
Editor, SHCA News



Calendar (continued from page 2)

What and when: Fall houseplant care, Sept. 24, 1-2 p.m.
Where: Walnut Park Plaza Senior Residence, 6250 Walnut St.

What and when: Fabulous fall containers, Sept. 27, 10-11 a.m.
Where: Southwest Community Development Center, 6328 Pascall Ave.

Info and register: Marilyn Reynolds, 215-988-8872

ooo

Bark in the Park

Sponsor: Friends of Clark Park
What: Contests, games (and prizes) for dogs and their proud owners
When: Oct. 4 at 2 p.m.
Where: In "B" Park at the Clark Park "bowl," 43rd St. and Chester Ave.
Info: www.clarkpark.info or 215-552-8186

ooo

Gardening Book Sale

What: Sale of books to benefit McLean Library of the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society
When: Sept 24, 9:30 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Where: McLean Library, 100 North 20th Street, 1st Floor
Info: Priscilla Becrof at mcleanlibrary@pennhort.org or 215-988-8772

ooo

Gallery Exhibition

What: "Reconfigured," an exhibit of art by Ana Hernandez, Mathew Neff, Amy Stevens, Lindsay Weisenthal, Lee Wilkinson, Wendy Wolf.
Where: Sam Quinn Gallery, 4501 Spruce St.
When: Opening reception, Sept. 12, 6-8 p.m. Exhibit runs through Nov. 7
Info: 267-408-5769 or sam@samquinn.com

ooo

Credit Wise Seminar

What: Using your credit card wisely
When: Sept 23, 6 p.m.
Where: People's Emergency Center, Community Room, 325 N. 39th St.
Info: James Wright, 215-382-7522 or jameswright@pec-cares.org. Or see www.pec-cares.org.



UC Green Celebrates a Decade

(Continued from page 1)

run by Traveller's Aid and the Salvation Army. UC Green's infusion of energy and volunteers helped make the playground a catalyst for that area's renewal – although not even we could have predicted the spectacular changes that have occurred there since our first efforts!

In 1999, armed with a modest grant from the William Penn Foundation, Esaul and his band of volunteers began awarding a series of 20 "mini-grants" for block improvements throughout western University City. The award process, pioneered by SHCA, gave up to \$500 for street-scene greening projects that were proposed and carried out by residents of the block with technical support from UC Green. Schoolyards, community gardens, traffic triangles, and dog parks were among the beneficiaries. The tradition continues with the current block improvement grant program in Spruce Hill, Cedar Park, and most recently, Walnut Hill.

Esaul also initiated UC Green's "signature" projects -- the dramatic one-day installation of scores of trees by hundreds of supervised volunteers.

These plantings have transformed formerly barren commercial corridors, including Walnut Street and Chestnut Streets, both greened in 2001.

In 2003, Spruce Hill resident Amanda Benner, who had a background in volunteer greening and project management, became our second executive director. She continued the mix of smaller block-based initiatives with large-scale tree plantings on major streets (more of Walnut Street in 2004; North 34th Street and Powelton Avenue in 2005) and recreation centers (Kingsessing in 2006 and Woodland in 2008). The work got a boost from TreeVitalize, a partnership to restore tree cover established by the Pennsylvania's Department of Conservation and Natural Resources in 2004. More than 600 TreeVitalize trees now grace University City.

Amanda also oversaw the birth of the UC Green Corps, the summer program that employs youths to water and care for hundreds of young trees planted by UC Green volunteers. Young trees are also nurtured by the UC Green Pruning Club, which teaches volunteers proper tree-pruning techniques by pruning the

area's street trees during the summer months.

Our current Executive Director, Sue Pringle, formerly of Meadowbrook Farms and Awbury Arboretum, brings a wealth of horticultural and educational experience. She works closely with Winnie Harris, the West Powelton-based volunteer coordinator, to build and maintain the green infrastructure of our West Philadelphia neighborhoods.

UC Green has always been about volunteers and partnerships in win-win collaborations. Rather than green *for* the community, we will always green *with* the community. If you would like to give your support, however large or small, there are plenty of opportunities.

We hope you'll come to our tenth anniversary party at the Restaurant School, 4207 Walnut St., on Sept 19 at 6 p.m. Call 215-573-4684 for information.

And please sign up on our email list for announcements of upcoming events and greenings. Our website is www.ucgreen.org. Feel free to call us (215-573-4684) at the UC Green office, 4613 Woodland Avenue, if you have questions.

To paraphrase poet Joyce Kilmer, there is nothing lovelier than a tree.

If you would like to see more trees lifting their "leafy arms" on your block, then TreeVitalize can help. This public/private partnership was created to restore the dwindling tree cover in Southeastern Pennsylvania (See Mike Hardy's article starting on page 1).

TreeVitalize is working with UC Green to review requests for street trees in West Philadelphia. If a

request is approved, trees are planted by community volunteers coordinated by UC Green and the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society.

The deadline for the latest round of applications is Sept. 15, so hurry if you want to be considered for this fall's planting. The property owner request form can be found on www.ucgreen.org (click on "how to"). Return the completed and signed form to UC Green, 4613 Woodland Ave,

Phila, PA 19143. Or fax it to 215-898-2167. For assistance, contact Winnie Harris at 215-573-4684 or wharris@ucgreen.org.



Belated Thanks to Individual Mayfair Supporters

Due to, *ahem*, an editorial oversight, the names of supporters of the most recent annual Mayfair were not published in the last issue. We heartily apologize and sincerely thank them:

Up to \$25

Carol Buettger
Leo and Eileen Molinaro
Henry and Charlotte Elsner
Judith Zagozen

\$25 - \$49

Fran Byers
Brett and Jennifer Feldman
Gusztav and Reiko Gaspar
Deborah Juergens
Dean and Nancy Khan
David Koppisch and Bridget Lessner
Janis Laurie & Jeremy Steinberg
Ruth B. Mellman
Heiner and Gisela Moehren
Michele Richman
Hsuan and Pauline Yeh

\$50 - \$99

Maureen Barden and David Othmer
Fay and Gary Beauchamp
Linda and David Blythe
Eva L. Christensen-Higgins
Linda Cook
Mary Daniels
Julia G. Falleti
Garden Court Plaza
Rose and Ed Halligan
Conrad and Lois Hamerman
Frank Innes and Mary Brewster
Nancy Juergens and Bob Behr
John and Lori Kempen
Joseph H. Knox
Joseph and Vanessa Lowry
Jean and Dan McCoubrey
"Jackie McCrea, Brian Yachshen and Dylan"
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph S. Moloznik
Elaine Nelson
Patricia Pickup
Judy Powers and Nancy Hanrahan
Nancy and Joe Ruane
F.N. Scatena and M. Romero
Fresueda
George and Phebe Shinn
Sharon and Jim Smith
Thomas & Whitney Van Dean
Lewis and Abbie Wendell

\$100 - \$249

Best House Pizza
Betty Allen
Liz Champion and Larry Motyka and Family
Central City Toyota - Max Paul

Frank and Linda Chance
Alan Fishman & Steve Herman
Mary Goldman
Barry Grossbach and Michael Hardy
Joannes Hoek and Marja Hoek
Swit
HMS School for Children with Cerebral Palsy
David Horwitz
Andrew and Lynn Lees
Michael Levin
John and Betsy McCoubrey
Theresa Mond and Mark Wagenveld
Louis H. Porter
Cynthia Roberts and Dan Biddle
Libby Rosof and Murray Dubin
T.J. Stokes
University of the Sciences in Philadelphia - Elizabeth Bressi-Stoppe
Joan Weiner
Kathleen White & Erwin Miller
\$250 and above

Apartments at Penn - Dan Deritis
Campus Apartments - David J. Adelman
Constellar Corp. - Guy Laren
"National Amusements, Inc. - William Moscarelli"
New Horizons Housing LLC - Mark P. Hershhorn
Philadelphia Federal Credit Union - Noreen Harrington
Holly Pittman and Gary Hatfield
Posel Management Company - David Hess
The Restaurant School at Walnut Hill College - Daniel Libertoscio
Spruce Hill Homes in University City - Tom Lussenhop
Arthur Staddon and Marcie Robb Staddon
The Consortium, John White Jr.
University City District - Lewis Wendell
University City Science Center - Curtis Hess
University Enterprises - Stephen Herman
Vincent Goffredo Plumbing - Eric Kassab

Raffle Donors

Abbraccio
Abbyssinia
Annenberg Center
Bartram's Garden
Ben & Jerry's
Best House Pizza

Bindlestiff Books
Bubble House
Bucks County Coffee
Café Pier One
Campus Copy
Champagne Limousine
Christian Science Monitor
Colonial Pizza
Crossroads Music
Dahlak
Dock Street Brewery
Donuts Plus
Douglas Cosmetics
Fiesta Pizza
Fresh Grocer
Gia Pronto
Green Line Café
Hare Brothers
House of Our Own
Izzy & Zoe's Jean Madeline
Salon
Last Word Bookstore
Lee's Hoagie House
Marathon Grill
Marigold Kitchen

Marvelous
Metropolitan Bakery
Michael's Custom Cuts
Modern Eye
Monarch Hardware
Nan
New Deck Tavern
New Delhi
Pattaya Grill
Penn Book Store
Philly Cuts
Philly Diner
Qdoba Grill
Rx
Saad's Halal
Saturn Club
Sitar India
Strikes
Supreme Supermarket
University Pinball
UPenn Museum
Vietienne
Vietnam Café
White Dog Café
Whole Foods

Halloween Tot Parade is coming!

Never mind what we told you in the summer edition of SHCA News, when parade organizers were considering a change in the route. **The upcoming parade will follow the traditional route.**

This year's event, for costumed children under 6 (older siblings may come as parade marshals), will kick off — as usual — from the Clark Park flag pole at 4:30 pm on Halloween, Friday, Oct. 31. The parade will go up the 4300 block of Baltimore to 44th Street, then down Larchwood to 43rd Street, and up to "Little" Osage Avenue (4200 block).

We hope you'll be home between 4:15 and 5 pm to welcome the little ones with treats (no tricks, please!). As you know, the parade has become an institution, attracting more than 300 kids plus parental escorts and fans.

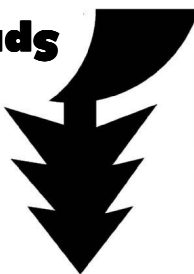
The parade began about a decade ago in response to concerns about safety. But it's also a nice way to compensate for the abundance of students (also known as self-absorbed post-adolescents who don't give out candy on Halloween) living in University City.

This year's parade is organized by the **Spruce Hill Community Association**. We are grateful for the support of the **Penn Pep Band**, the **University City District**, and the **Philadelphia Police Department**, which help us with the logistics and fanfare.

If you'd like to pitch in, volunteers are needed to run the check-in table, act as parade marshals, coordinate the after-party and organize the neighbors along the route, among other tasks. To sign up or for information, contact lead organizer Bruce Andersen, 215-387-3887 or bgandersen@aol.com

Spruce Hill Community Association News

Fall 2008



**Spruce Hill Community Association
257 South 45th Street
Philadelphia, PA 19104**



Spruce Hill Community Association News

Clip N' Mail Clip N' Mail Clip N' Mail Clip N' Mail Clip N' Mail Clip N' Mail

To join the Spruce Hill Email list, send an email to SHCA-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

Check the mailing label for your membership expiration date.

Membership (2 year membership--deduct \$5)

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual/Family \$20 | <input type="checkbox"/> Senior/Student \$10 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Business \$35 | <input type="checkbox"/> Sponsor \$50 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Patron \$100 | <input type="checkbox"/> Lifetime \$300 |



Make checks payable to SHCA and mail to:
SHCA, 257 S.45th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19104