

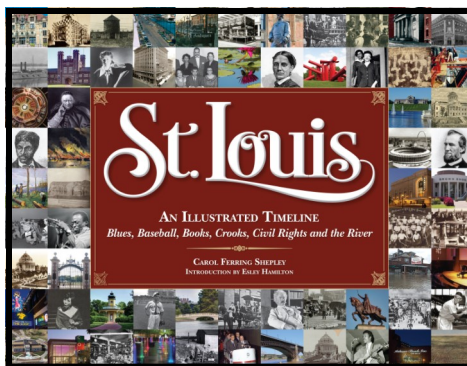
August 2015

# ILLUMINATIONS

quarterly publication of the Historical Society of University City

## Annual Meeting

*Author to speak on St. Louis events  
through the years*



At the Annual Dinner Meeting Monday Sept. 28, the speaker will be Carol Ferring Shepley. She will discuss and sign her book, *St. Louis Illustrated Timeline: Blues, Baseball, Books, Crooks, Civil Rights and the River*. In photographs and vignettes, the book tells the story of the city and its people, including Josephine Baker, William Greenleaf Eliot, Stan Musial, James B. Eads and many more. The march of events begins with the construction of The Big Mound and ends with the completion of CityArchRiver

(expected next year), noting along the way the opening of Shaw's Garden (1859), Virginia Minor's attempt to vote (1871), the founding of Monsanto (1901) and Stan Musial's first year with the Cardinals (1942). The author, a graduate of Wellesley College, is a former art critic for the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* who has also written for *Time* and *Harper's Bazaar*. Her other books include *Shakers, Scalawags and Suffragettes: Tales from Bellefontaine Cemetery*, which won the Independent Publishers' Gold Medal Award for Best Regional Non-Fiction. This year's dinner meeting will be held at the University City Public Library.



*Carol Ferring  
Shepley*

### TICKET ORDER FORM

Annual Dinner of the Historical Society of University City  
6:30 pm Monday Sept. 28 University City Public Library 6701 Delmar Blvd.

Your name and address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Quantity: \_\_\_\_\_ member tickets at \$30 \_\_\_\_\_ nonmember tickets at \$35

Please enclose check payable to HSUC and mail to: Eleanor Mullin, HSUC President, 7162 Delmar Blvd. University City MO 63130

## E.G. Lewis Magazines Donated to HSUC

In May 2015, Craig Hudson, an architect living and working in San Francisco and a former resident of the Ferguson-Florissant area of St. Louis, donated seven issues of E.G. Lewis' **Beautiful Homes** magazine to the Historical Society of University City.

Mr. Hudson acquired the magazines after discovering them on e-Bay with the assumption that they might feature residential designs from around St. Louis. He discovered that many residences highlighted in the magazine were designed by noted architects of the day such as Eames & Young and Barnett & Haynes. The most noteworthy residence was Henry S. Potter's home designed by Boston architect Henry Hobson Richardson.

Mr. Hudson's interest in contributing to the preservation of the history of time and place is summed up in his statement. "Along with Henry S. Potter's home, and other residences featured in **Beautiful Homes**, sometimes the only remaining record of their existence is in print - part of University City's and Mr. Lewis' continuing legacy." E.G. Lewis published **Beautiful Homes** magazine more than a 100 years ago at his Print Annex in University City. At that time, the magazine provided articles for women about how to decorate and create lovely home environments.

Today, the magazines will be of interest to researchers seeking information about architecture during the early 1900s in the United States. The HSUC, under the auspices of Archivist Susan G. Rehkopf, has housed the magazines in acid-free preservation envelopes to make them easily available to researchers. Digital copies of the magazines will be exhibited at the HSUC' glass display case. These copies were created because the paper and ink used to create the original magazines are fragile and light can damage them.

The HSUC would like to thank Mr. Hudson for his generous and thoughtful donation of the **Beautiful Homes** magazines for us to preserve, offer to researchers and share with U. City residents.—*Diane Peterson*

## Tell Your Story!

The U. City Public Library is partnering with Ferguson Library and StoryCorps to collect oral histories. StoryCorps gathers the stories of everyday Americans. Storytellers are interviewed by somebody they know (like a friend or family member) about some aspect of their lives. The recordings are archived in the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress. Recording is going on now at U. City library and will continue through October. For more information, call Kara at (314) 727-3150. The project is funded by a grant from StoryCorps, the American Library Association and the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

## The Quintessential Quilt 2015

Begun as part of the University City 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration, the quilt show is the longest running juried show in the region. Sponsored by The Historical Society of University City and directed by Circle in the Square Quilt Guild, 60 unique and beautiful quilts will be on display at the University City Public Library Sept. 27-Oct. 30. The show is free and open to the public during regular business hours.

Funding is provided by a grant from the Regional Arts Commission (RAC) and quilt raffle tickets. This year's quilt, designed and sewn by members of the guild, is red and white and will be displayed at the library during the run of the show. Raffle tickets may be purchased from members of the Historical Society, Circle in the Square guild or at the library.

Nationally known quilt artists Bonnie Hunter and Kacey Cowdery will give lectures during the event. These are also free and open to the public. Anyone is welcome to enter a quilt for consideration in the show. For additional information and entry forms please visit [www.Circleinthesquare.org](http://www.Circleinthesquare.org).

## Hamilton Retires

Esley Hamilton, a resident of University City and author of several neighborhood history booklets published by the HSUC, has retired after 38 years as preservation historian of St. Louis County. After earning a bachelor's in English from Syracuse University and a Master's in urban planning from the University of Wisconsin and studying architecture at Washington University, he went to work for the County's Parks and Recreation department. He has fought many campaigns to preserve historic buildings, winning some and losing others. His proudest achievement, he told the *West End Word*, was helping to preserve White Haven, now part of the U.S. Grant National Historic Site. He has been an invaluable information resource for local historical societies. He will stay on part-time for a while to help his successor, Daniel Gonzales, settle in. The HSUC thanks Esley Hamilton for his long and devoted service and welcomes Daniel Gonzales.

### The Historical Society of University City

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*Grand staircase of City Hall*

## HSUC Publishes City Hall Guide

"The only strictly monumental office building in the world," was architect Herbert C. Chivers' description of the octagonal tower he designed for E.G. Lewis. The building was not just to serve as headquarters for Lewis' publishing enterprise; it was to set the tone for his model community, University City. No expense was spared. The new publication of the HSUC, *Strictly Monumental: A Guide to City Hall, University City, Missouri*, provides a concise history and description of the building, richly illustrated with black and white and color photographs. The booklet was written by David Linzee, HSUC boardmember and editor of *Illuminations*. The price is \$6. Copies can be purchased at the public library or via our website.

## In Memoriam: Leo Drey

Leo A. Drey, HSUC member and one of University City's most prominent residents, died May 26. He was 98. In 1951, he began buying small parcels of Ozark woodland. Over more than 60 years, he preserved and restored many acres of Missouri forest. At one point, he and his wife, community activist Kay Drey, were the largest landowners in the state. In 1962 they established the L-A-D Foundation to preserve Missouri's natural resources. They also helped to protect the Current, Jack's Fork and Eleven Point Rivers. Leo Drey belonged to and supported the Missouri Forest Industries Committee, the Missouri Nature Conservancy, the Missouri Coalition for the Environment, the St. Louis Open Space Council and the Missouri Parks Association.

## Historical News Roundup

\*Andrea Riganti, U. City director of development, told the HSUC that André Borelli will be returning to continue restoration work on the Lion Gates after the Roundabout is complete, probably in September. U. Citians have been admiring his work on the north-side lion statue, which he did last fall.

\*"A Walk in 1875 St. Louis" continues at the Missouri History Museum. Based on the famous Compton and Dry panorama of the city, the exhibition uses a "graphic novel" approach to take visitors through the streets, offices, homes, bars and streetcars of the city. The exhibition is free.

\*DVDs of interviews with prominent U. Citians are available for borrowing from the public library. They are kept in a special display rack next to the reference desk. They were recorded by CALOP in 2007. Among the interview subjects are Elsie Glickert and Robert Kaufman of the HSUC, former high school Principal Sam Austin, former City Councilmember Larry Lieberman, and Charles and Rose Klotzer, publishers of the *St. Louis Journalism Review*.

\*Charles Henry, former City Manager of U. City, was interviewed in the March 22 Eugene (Oregon) *Register-Guard* about racial integration in U. City in the '60s and '70s. He contrasted the mostly successful process with the bad situation in nearby Ferguson.

\*The nineteenth-century water tower in Compton Hill Reservoir Park is open to the public on the first Saturday of each Fall month (Sept. 5, Oct. 3, Nov. 7) from noon to 4 pm. It's also open on full-moon evenings (Sept. 27, Oct. 27, Nov. 25). Admission is \$5. Visitors can climb to the top of the 170 foot high tower and enjoy the view. Info: [watertowerfoundation.org](http://watertowerfoundation.org)



*Compton Hill Tower*

The Historical Society of University City  
6701 Delmar Blvd.  
University City MO 63130

Address Service Requested

### **Inside**

- \*Annual Dinner ticket order form
- \*Donation of Lewis magazines
- \*New booklet on City Hall

## **Civic Plaza Preservation**

On Aug. 4, U. City residents, many from University Heights subdivision, held a rally in front of City Hall to announce the Heritage Sites Initiative. These sites include the Civic Plaza and buildings near it. Supporters of the Initiative plan to gather signatures for a petition to place on the ballot an amendment to the City Charter, which would require a vote of the people before any of the Heritage sites could be sold or demolished. The HSUC has issued a statement supporting the Initiative. Delmar Harvard School is *not* on the list of proposed Heritage Sites, although a developer has announced plans to buy the school, demolish it and put up apartment buildings on the site.

One of the proposed Heritage Sites is the Magazine Press Building behind City Hall, built by E.G. Lewis in 1904. The Fire Department has moved out of this building. The Police Department is the sole occupant. At the City Council meeting July 13, the Council voted 4-3 to set aside \$7 million for a police station. It is not known whether the money would be used to renovate the current station or build a new one. Council-member Paulette Carr, who opposed setting the funds aside, said in her July 12 letter that the city had paid for a survey of the existing building to determine its fitness for renovation by Chiodini Architects. She said that the report was complete but had not been released. Mayor

Shelley Welsch said in her July 19 newsletter that the set-aside was appropriate under Government Finance Officers Association Best Practices. City staff has determined that either renovation or new construction would cost more than \$7 million.

## **Famous-Barr Program**

On June 8, Edna Campos Gravenhorst spoke about her book *Famous-Barr: St. Louis Shopping at Its Finest*, at our final program of the spring. She related that William Barr came to St. Louis from Scotland in the 1850s and started a dry goods business. David May got his start in storekeeping in Colorado. In 1892 he bought Famous, a St. Louis department store known for bargain prices. In 1911, he bought the Barr store and combined them. In 1947, Famous-Barr hired African Americans, the first local department store to do so. In 1948, it opened a Clayton branch (now Washington University's West Campus). Elizabeth Taylor visited Famous to promote her perfume brand, and chefs Julia Child and Jacques Pepin gave cooking demonstrations. Famous' own restaurant was celebrated for its French onion soup. In the 1960s, the six-story tall Christmas tree in lights on the downtown store was a holiday tradition.