



*Historic Germantown*  
HALL OF  
FAME

*Annual Benefit & Awards Dinner*

**6.7.24**

*Celebrating*

*Steve Kurtz · Sara M. Lomax*  
*Ursula Rucker*



## *Honorary Committee*

**The Honorable Cindy Bass**  
*Philadelphia City Council Member*

**The Honorable Dwight Evans**  
*U.S. House of Representatives*

**The Honorable Art Haywood**  
*Pennsylvania State Senate*

**The Honorable Stephen Kinsey**  
*Pennsylvania House of Representatives*

**The Honorable Darisha K. Parker**  
*Pennsylvania House of Representatives*

**The Honorable Chris Rabb**  
*Pennsylvania House of Representatives*

**The Honorable Sharif Street**  
*Pennsylvania State Senate*

## *Host Committee*

*As of May 21, 2024*

### **Educator \$2,500**

Carolyn Adams  
Loretta & Tom Witt  
Michael F. Young

### **Preservationist \$1,000**

James & Zarah Adams  
Laura Fox  
Elizabeth Gemmill  
Russell Harris & Carmen Zinni  
Catharine Keim  
Sharmain Matlock-Turner  
George McNeely  
David Newmann & Laura Ward  
Elise Rivers  
Dora L. Rogers  
Laura & Ronald Siena  
Lucy Strackhouse  
Bethany Wiggin  
Ted and Stevie Wolf

### **Curator \$500**

Drs. Jim Buehler and Lydia Ogden  
Joan Countryman  
James Earl Davis  
Jim Domenick & Kathy Clupper  
J.M. Duffin  
Doris & Robert Fanelli  
Lois Frischling & Gerald Miller  
Anne Hagele and Ken Kolodziej  
Stephen Kaufman & Sydelle Zove  
John Kromer  
Kathleen Lee  
Norman Marcus

### **Curator \$500 (Cont'd)**

Ruth & Stephen Marino  
Sam & Nicole Juday Rhoads  
Richard Roccato  
Mark Sellers & Najjia Mahmoud  
Chris & Lee van de Velde

### **Historian \$250**

Dennis Barnebey  
Charlotte H. Biddle  
Susan Bockius  
Joan Coale  
Matthew Countryman  
Margaret Davis  
Supreme Dow  
Barbara McDowell Dowdall  
Lynne Farrington & John Pollack  
Tuomi Forrest & Rebecca Bixby  
Nicole Fulton  
Dwayne Grannum  
Tim Lieb  
Paul Mongan  
Nadine Patterson  
Steven Peitzman  
Myles Pettengill  
Dennis Pickeral, Stenton  
Suzanne Ponsen  
Amy Ricci  
Paul Steinke  
Stacey Swigart  
Anna C. Toogood  
Barbara Wallace



salute

# Sara M. Lomax

for being inducted  
into the  
Germantown  
Historical Society  
Hall of Fame



## Congratulations!

**WURD Radio** is Pennsylvania's only independent Black talk radio station. Check us out at 900AM/96.1FM or at [wurdradio.com](http://wurdradio.com).

**URL Media** stands for Uplift, Respect and Love. URL is a national network of Black and Brown media companies that share content and revenues to create greater sustainability for BIPOC media. Go to [URL-Media.com](http://URL-Media.com) for more information.

# Hall of Fame PROGRAM

6.7.24

## Welcome

Carolyn Adams, President, Historic Germantown  
Tuomi Forrest, Executive Director

## Hall of Fame Ceremony

Master of Ceremonies: Supreme Divine-Dow

### INDUCTION OF STEVE KURTZ

(Live Auction)

### INDUCTION OF SARA M. LOMAX

(Live Auction)

### INDUCTION OF URSULA RUCKER

(Live Auction)

Silent Auction Winners Announced

## Closing Remarks

Carolyn Adams

Live Music: Keith Parker Quartet

Auctioneer: George McNeely

Video Tributes: PWP Video

Dinner: Bacchus Market and Catering

Dessert: The Frosted Fox Cake Shop

Award Plaques: Karen Singer Tileworks, Inc.

Graphic Design: Mayapple Graphics, LLC

Event & Media Support: Lisa Duhart-Collins

Photography: Robert Buzzard Photography

## Live Auction Items

### Behind-the-Scenes Tour...



...at the Atwater Kent Collection

### A Private Flight...



...over Manhattan and the Hudson River

### One-of-a-Kind Experience...



...at Merzbacher's Bakery including hands-on breadmaking tutorial with Pete Merzbacher

### Dinner & Conversation...



... With Joan Countryman at the home of George McNeely

## Silent Auction Items

Historic Photograph  
of East Falls bridge

Framed Artwork  
of Mt. Airy homes

Framed Artwork  
of Germantown homes

Two Tickets for  
Music Alive Concert Series

Brooklyn Bowl VIP Concert  
Experience for four

Organizing & Cleaning  
Consultation with Tranquillitas

## Hall of Fame History

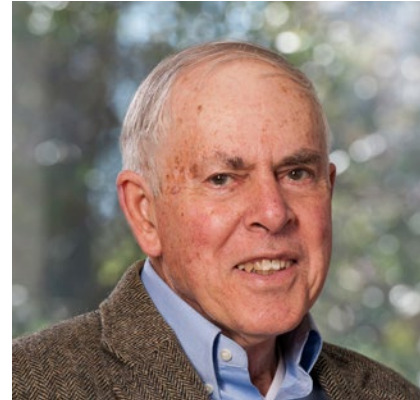
The Germantown Historical Society Hall of Fame was initiated in 1994 in the Historical Society's spirit of acknowledging Germantowners who have been influential in the development of local and national history. According to the 1996 Hall of Fame program, the establishment of the award seemed especially appropriate at the time, as the Germantown Historical Society had been turning its attention to the documentation of late 20th-century Northwest Philadelphia history. The Hall of Fame continued as an annual program at the Germantown Historical Society through 2006.

It was in this spirit that Historic Germantown revived the Hall of Fame in 2018 as an annual program to recognize contemporary history-makers and to support our member organizations.

## Hall of Fame Honorees

William Cash	Denise Scott Brown, FAIA
Elisabeth Shellenberger	Robert Venturi, FAIA
Eugene Glenn Stackhouse	Elliott Shelkrot
The Right Rev. Bishop Barbara Harris	Sun Ra Arkestra
Henry J. Magaziner, FAIA	Graham S. Finney
Catherine P. Bachrach	Derrick H. Pitts
Floyd W. Alston	Shelly D. Yanoff
Maggie E. Kuhn	John L. Asher, Jr.
Brother Al Smith, C.M.	Brenda and Helmut Gottschild
Grover Washington, Jr.	Patricia Henning
Ted Wolf	George Beach
Stevie Wolf, PhD	Dr. Constance Clayton
Francenia L. Emery	Ralph Roberts
Katherine Minehart	Jim Duffin
John Rice	Betty Turner
Rennie Cohen	Ken Weinstein
Dr. Jonathan Rhoads	Joan Countryman
Sister Sonia Sanchez	Jerry Pinkney
Sister M. Brigid Lawlor	Alice Lea Tasman
Rev. Dr. Theodore Loder	Leon Bates
Rev. Dr. Jeremiah Wright, Sr.	Barbara Bloom
Dr. Mary Henderson Wright	Dan Gordon
Rev. Richard R. Fernandez	Moe Brooker
Hugh B. Hanson	Dr. Erica Armstrong Dunbar
Dorothy Sumners Rush	Hon. Dwight Evans
William Green	Vashti DuBois
Liller Green	Stanley Clarke
Hon. Allyson Y. Schwartz	Hon. Art Haywood
Anthony H. Williams	Sharmain Matlock-Turner
Commissioner Harold B. Hairston	Barbara Bullock
Clarice G. Herbert	Hon. Stephen Kinsey

## Steve Kurtz



Stephen L. Kurtz is a fifth generation German Township resident and the founder of Kurtz Construction Company, Inc. which has become a widely respected leader in preservation roofing throughout the Delaware Valley area and beyond. Steve served in the US Army in Korea and when he returned to Philadelphia completed his BS in ED at St. Joseph's University.

While teaching history at Roxborough High School and taking graduate courses in history at Temple University he started roofing in the summers for a local company. In 1971 he started Steve Kurtz Roofing which eventually became Kurtz Construction. Steve's interest in history and the location of the business eventually led to working on the old structures of Germantown, Mt. Airy and Chestnut Hill. These buildings taught Steve the skills and techniques which the craftsmen of the 18th, 19th, and 20th centuries used to create these wonderful old buildings.

The skilled craftsmen at Kurtz Construction now work to the highest specifications provided by some of the most respected preservation designers and architects in the region. Along with many homes, churches and synagogues in the area Kurtz is proud to have completed many projects at Historic Houses in Germantown, Trappe, Historic Waynesborough and Fairmount Park. Many significant buildings at educational institutions such as Swarthmore College, Haverford College, Bryn Mawr College, Bryn Athyn College, Vassar College and the copper roof on the Chapel at West Point Military Academy. From 1983-2000 Steve partnered with Southwest Germantown Development Corp to form Hunting Park West Partners to redevelop five buildings by setting up incubators for small businesses. In 1988 -2004 Steve joined with seven partners to form The Northwest Group to purchase and revitalize the 6200 block of Germantown Avenue. In 1991 Steve, with a partner purchased the Kendrick Building and created small units for artists and commercial tenants. Steve has served on the boards of The Wissahickon Rebuilding Project, Chestnut Hill Business Association, Chestnut Hill Parking Foundation, Historic Rittenhouse Town, Historic Germantown Preserved, and as Trustee of VFW Post 5205.

## *Sara M. Lomax*



Sara M. Lomax is the president and general manager of WURD Radio, LLC, Pennsylvania's only African-American owned talk radio station. She hosted and produced HealthQuest Live radio show on WURD from 2002 through 2013. Prior to her work with WURD, Sara co-founded HealthQuest: Total Wellness for Body, Mind & Spirit, and the first nationally circulated African-American consumer health magazine in the country.

A graduate of the University of Pennsylvania and Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism, Sara also served as an adjunct professor of communications at Oglethorpe University in Atlanta, GA. She has taught a collaborative course at the University of Pennsylvania with Dr. John Jackson titled "Urban Ethnography" which taught students how to create audio documentaries that aired on 900AM-WURD.

Sara has received numerous awards including: the Woman of Substance Award from the National Medical Association; the "Tree of Life" award from the Wellness of You; and, HealthQuest Magazine received the Beacon of Light Award from the Congressional Black Caucus for outstanding health coverage. Sara was recognized as one of the "100 People to Watch" by Business Philadelphia Magazine, and in 2010, she was selected for the "Women of Distinction" award given by the Philadelphia Business Journal. Most recently, Sara received the 2012 PECO "Power to the Community" award given by the National Coalition of 100 Black Women of Pennsylvania. Sara sits on a variety of boards including The Kimmel Center for Performing Arts, Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts and the Philadelphia Community of Leaders.

## *Ursula Rucker*



Poet, mother, activist and recording artist. Ursula has toured throughout North America, Europe, Asia, Australia, New Zealand and Africa, sharing her poetry... her heart and soul. She is dedicated to art as/for social change and committed to freedom fighting, truth-telling and peace-making (and a little trouble;) through her chosen art form.

Rucker is known for a diverse repertoire, and for using techniques that catch her listeners attention. Rucker was born and raised in Philadelphia where she was a graduate of Temple University's journalism program. She is of African-American and Italian descent.

Rucker had been writing poetry since adolescence but kept her writings to herself until she read poetry in 1994, at Philadelphia's Zanzibar Blue, which is credited as her debut. That same year, Rucker was invited to collaborate with numerous recording artists, and producers including Wax Tailor, King Britt, 4hero, Jamaaladeen Tacuma, Josh Wink, Alix Perez and most notable, the Roots. Rucker garnered a reputation for unique poetry techniques and stage presence which were described as "strong, vulnerable, wounded and raging". King Britt gave Rucker recognition and invited her to create her first spoken-word recording, the 1994 club hit "Supernatural". Dance music fans and DJs quickly appreciated Rucker's vocals and rhythm, which was described as "mystical".

# *With Gratitude to the Following for their Generous Support*

---

## ***In-Kind***

Carolyn Adams  
Atwater Kent Collection at Drexel University  
Brooklyn Bowl, Live Nation Philadelphia  
Joan Countryman  
Laura Lacy, Attic Brewing  
Jennifer Lowe, Frosted Fox Cake Shop  
George McNeely  
Merzbacher's  
Stenton/NSCDA  
PWP Video  
Sara Robbins  
Mark Sellers  
Lucy Strackhouse  
Stacey Swigart  
Tranquillitas Living LLC  
Loretta Witt

## ***Volunteers***

Piper Burnett  
Janet Lippincott  
William O'Connor  
Derrec Mongan



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# LEADERSHIP SETS AN EXAMPLE THAT CAN BE FELT FOR GENERATIONS



Jefferson proudly supports Historic Germantown's Hall of Fame Benefit as it honors individuals who are making significant contributions towards improving lives in their communities.

Congratulations to all of tonight's inspiring honorees.



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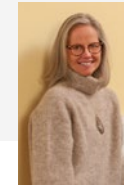
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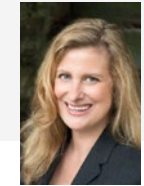
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**HISTORIC  
GERMANTOWN**

*Freedom's Backyard*





**WATCHTOWER**  
— P R O P E R T Y C O —

GERMANTOWN FRIENDS SCHOOL

Congratulations, **Germantown Hall of Fame** winners!



**STEVE KURTZ**

**SARA M. LOMAX**

**URSULA RUCKER**



Thank you to our friends at Historic Germantown for your commitment to education and to the rich cultural history of our neighborhood.

BREAD TO SHARE  
**Mertzbacher's**  
of  
GERMANTOWN  
PA

*Congratulations!*

**URSULA  
RUCKER**



*We Still Here* © 2021 City of Philadelphia Mural Arts Program / Gaia, Jet-sonorama, & Ursula Rucker, 22 Maplewood Mall. Photo by Steve Weinik.

**On your induction into the  
Germantown Hall of Fame!**



**Mural Arts  
Philadelphia**  
Roots & Reimagination  
40th Anniversary

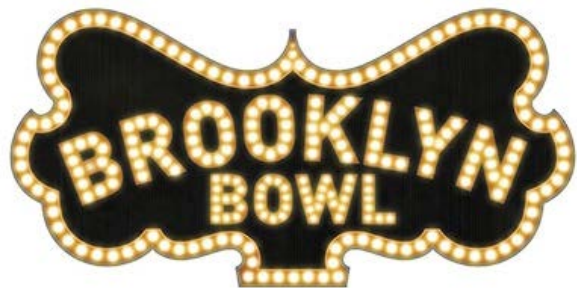
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*Congratulations Sara M. Lomax on your induction into  
the Historic Germantown Hall of Fame!*

On behalf of the Philadelphia Journalism Collaborative and Resolve Philly,  
we thank you for your tremendous contributions to local journalism and  
the Philadelphia community. We are honored to call you a partner!



**PHILADELPHIA**

**Francine D'Elia Wirsching, CLTP, NTP**

550 Township Line Road, Suite 350  
Blue Bell, PA 19422



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**Community First**  
— ABSTRACT —

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The Chestnut Hill Conservancy proudly supports our friends at Historic Germantown and celebrates the well-deserved honor of the remarkable Steve Kurtz.

Congratulations!

In addition to being a good friend, Steve Kurtz and Kurtz Construction Company, Inc. exemplify excellence in historic preservation.



DREXEL UNIVERSITY

## Atwater Kent Collection

*philadelphiahistory.org*



The Rotary Club of Northeast Philadelphia-Cheltenham Rockledge is proud to support Historic Germantown



We meet at the Quaker Diner 7241 Rising Sun Avenue the 2nd & 4th Thursday. We meet on Zoom the 1st & 3rd Thursday. Rotary is for anyone who wishes to support our community. For more information

[ROTARY7450.ORG/NESUNRISERS](http://ROTARY7450.ORG/NESUNRISERS)

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to the preservation of our  
region's historic buildings  
and communities.



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# Congratulations 2024 Hall of Fame Honorees!

*Steve Kurtz*

*Founder of Kurtz Construction Company, historic preservationist, and community volunteer*

*Sara M. Lomax*

*President and CEO of WURD Radio, entrepreneur, and journalist*

*Ursula Rucker*

*World-renowned poet, recording artist, and activist*



**HISTORIC  
GERMANTOWN**  
*Freedom's Backyard*



**HISTORIC  
GERMANTOWN**

*Freedom's Backyard*

## VISION

Historic Germantown will be a leader in enhancing the economic and cultural development of our community through the collective voice of its member sites.

## MISSION

Historic Germantown is a partnership of 19 extraordinary historic houses, destinations, and museums in Northwest Philadelphia that have joined together to protect, preserve, and share some of Philadelphia's prized cultural assets.

## MEMBER SITES

ACES Museum  
Black Writers Museum  
Awbury Arboretum  
Cliveden of the National Trust  
Concord School  
Deshler-Morris House  
Ebenezer Maxwell Mansion  
Germantown Mennonite Historic Trust  
Germantown Historical Society  
Grumblethorpe

Historic Fair Hill  
Historic RittenhouseTown  
Hood Cemetery  
Johnson House  
La Salle Art Museum  
Lest We Forget Slavery Museum  
Stenton  
The Colored Girls Museum  
Wyck House and Gardens

## BOARD

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Kathy Lee, *Vice President*  
Mark Sellers, *Treasurer*  
Dwayne Grannum, *Secretary*

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James Earl Davis  
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Timothy Lieb

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Amy Ricci  
Dora L. Rogers  
Bethany Wiggin

## STAFF

Tuomi Joshua Forrest  
*Executive Director*  
Gigi McGraw  
*Community Engagement  
Coordinator*

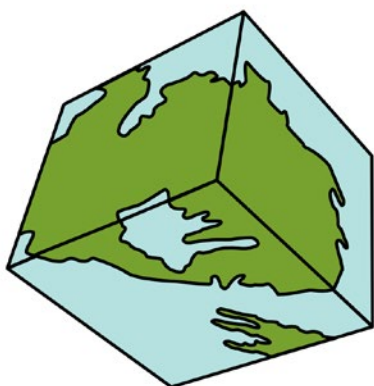
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Caroline Slama  
*Manager of Archives  
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Stacey Swigart  
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Stephanye Watts  
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