



union square association, inc.  
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MARCH 2009

## Free to join this month

Come join one of the fastest growing associations in the city! This month, when you attend the general meeting, your \$5 membership fee will be waived for the year.

### Important Dates:

- Next General Meeting  
Wednesday, March 4th  
at 7pm, 1401 Hollins St.,  
Baltimore, MD 21223

### 2009 Board Members

Christopher Taylor  
*President*

Kim Chrichlow  
*Vice President*

Ivan Leshinsky  
*Treasurer*

Megan Schulze  
*Recording Secretary*

Jason Bass  
*Corresponding Secretary*

Fran Rahl  
*Director of Historic Preservation*

Sylva Browning  
*Director at Large*

David Cochran  
*Director at Large*

### Vote

Union Square is changing their domain name and asking the community their take on the proposed domain.

[UnionSquareBalt.com](http://UnionSquareBalt.com)

[ ] Yes or [ ] No

## Message from the President

By Chris Taylor

Greetings! Thank you to everyone who came out to last month's meeting. **We had a great turnout of over 50 people.** That is an unbelievable number and it is why Union Square is becoming one of the most talked about associations in the city. Let's try to top that this month!

Periodically, I will ask different people to tell their stories in our newsletter, as it is always nice to hear from different voices in the neighborhood. This month I asked Fran Rahl to write about his experiences in Union Square both past and present. Fran has a long and storied history in Union Square. I applaud his efforts as CHAP representative. This is an extremely hard job that places him in many difficult positions, enforcing historic guidelines among friends, neighbors, and outside investors. It is not always easy to find the right balance between enforcement and the obvious need for development. It has been my policy to approach our friends and neighbors with a gentle but firm hand and I know that Fran has done this to the best of his ability. We all saw how emotionally charged this issue can become at our last meeting, but in the spirit of cooperation, Fran, Rason, Zarva, and I all met at their building last week and have agreed upon a plan approved by all parties. I want to take this opportunity to thank all of them for their effort to come to a consensus. You represent what is best about our neighborhood.

## Agenda for March 4th meeting

By Chris Taylor

\*Major Bloodsworth will join us with some representatives from the new Tri-district under cover unit.

\*Ivan Leshinsky will give us a budget report, including anticipated spending requests from the board members and various committees for 2009. **This is a voting issue.**

\*Chris Taylor will present a motion that we donate \$500 to the Southern Police District. This is in addition to \$500 the 2008 board approved for donation to the Southern Police District. **This is a voting issue.** In addition to these funds, we will be soliciting donations from our membership so that we can meet our goal of raising \$3,000.

\*Come find out which block had the most members for 2008. As you recall, the winning block will receive two flower pots to plant this spring.

\*Michael Dannenburg will give a presentation on foster care.

\*Chris Taylor has worked with Ms. Collins and Ms. Powell from Steuart Hill to form a Youth Council for the neighborhood. They will present their ideas and their ambitions and Chris will put forward a motion that we approve a \$500 donation so that they can begin their work. **This is a voting issue.** Come listen to the young men and see for yourself.

## Looking Back and Ahead

By Fran Rahl

Debby and I moved into a very cold 27 S. Stricker in the winter of 1979. It was the beginning of what we thought would be a five year renovation project. We were part of a second wave of young urban pioneers who came to the neighborhood to buy cheaply the big old apartmentized homes and convert them to single family use. There was a high level of community spirit among a small group of people. Scaffolds abounded, there was a lot of tool sharing, advice sharing and hard labor sharing among our neighbors. The park had just been renovated and looked wonderful. We neighbors ate and drank together, held festivals in the park, and respected the historic district. It was smaller then—just the park and a block in any direction. We spent many summer evenings stoop-sitting with our neighbors enjoying a refreshing drink and discussing our latest projects.

There was racial and cultural tension between the poor African Americans to the north of Baltimore Street and the poor white Appalachian people to the south of Lombard. The Union Square settlers were sometimes thought of as gentrifiers by both indigenous groups. We developed a reputation of being “holier than thou” that is finally being overcome as we become larger and more diverse.

There were periods of depressed housing values. At one time half of the houses on our block were vacant. In the beginning, we had to regularly chase people off our front steps and the steps of neighbors. Almost the entire 1300 block of Hollins was vacant. We knew all the cops by name. They stopped by the stoops every evening and, of course, we called 911 about every day. A lot of Association energy was spent with zoning issues and with closing liquor dispensing establishments.

Our home is still cold in the winter and the five year project has become a 30 year project. And there is still plenty to do in the neighborhood, but happily there has been a slow upward trend over the years. We have some vacant houses, but nothing like the 1980's. Today we share a larger community of great people, great architecture, low crime, and renewed promise. MLK Boulevard is quickly losing its role as the western end of Baltimore. New restaurants have opened, SoWeBo Arts and Hollins Roundhouse organizations are growing. SoWeBo now maintains three simultaneous art shows at any given time. We still eat and drink together and the park is scheduled for a serious make-over. We have actually held on pretty well through the economic down turn. We have the Market and charter school. And we have the Stuart Hill Academy, the building of which caused the creation of the Union Square Associate and historic district in the first place. But that's another story.

## Cooking Corner

By Sylva Lin

A monthly recipe and cooking tips will now be included in the monthly newsletter. I will keep neighbors informed of local events, seasonal ingredients and other culinary tips of interest. I had many requests for the nut recipe I used for the Christmas Cookie tour this year, so here it is. This recipe can be made with any of your favorite spices and nuts. The most important ingredients are egg whites and sugar. Other ingredients may be substituted. They are great source of protein for snacks and an easy finger food for entertaining. Please enjoy and don't burn the nuts!!

### Spicy Paprika Cashews

Makes 5 cups

I like to make these nuts fairly spicy, but you can adjust the heat by raising or lowering the amount of cayenne pepper used. In addition, you can use almonds, pecans or other nuts which you enjoy.

1 tablespoon kosher salt

2 tablespoons cayenne pepper

1½ teaspoons paprika

½ cup sugar

2 large egg whites

5 cups unsalted cashews or other nuts

Heat oven to 300 F. line 2 baking sheets with parchment paper. In a small bowl, combine salt, cayenne, paprika, and sugar and set aside.

In a large bowl, beat egg whites with a small whisk until foamy. Whisk in spice mixture. Stir in nuts and toss until nuts are coated. Spread nuts in a single layer onto baking sheets. Bake for 15 minutes. Reduce oven temperature to 250 F., rotate the pans and bake for another 10 minutes. Set aside and let cool. These cashews/nuts may be kept in an airtight container at room temperature.

Nuts will come out of the oven a little gooey but will

### Committee Cares

The Union Square Marketing Committee is creating Welcome Bags for new residents in the neighborhood. If you know of someone new on your block, please email [schulzemegan@gmail.com](mailto:schulzemegan@gmail.com) so that we can welcome our new neighbors properly!

**Act Fast - Union Square T-Shirts Available for Purchase for only \$20!!!**

**Men & Women shirts sizes S-XXL.**

Contact [schulzemegan@gmail.com](mailto:schulzemegan@gmail.com) to order!