

# UNION SQUARE

news and notes from around the neighborhood

## MAKE SOME NOISE | KIM CRICHLAW

*"No, I never can understand it, the way the system plan. There's no hope, no chance, no loophole, no escape for a suffering man. Cause every time I leave my head above water and try to save myself from drown, there's an overnight scheme all worked out, designed to keep ah me down. Still I'm putting up a resistance. I'm ah gonna work it out. You know I'm putting up a resistance. I've got to work it out."*

— Beres Hammond

One of the most famous Jamaican reggae balladeers in the world is quoted above. His famous song Putting up Resistance captures the plight of the working man and his desire to keep fighting on despite feeling like the system is somehow rigged to thwart his best efforts. I think this is how so many people feel today about their current situations when it comes to affecting change in the country, in the city and our beloved neighborhood, Union Square.

It is often easy to feel that we are fighting against the current and against a system that is rigged to beat us. It appears to be the thing that makes many people not participate or bring their many talents to the table. While it may seem that the system is rigged it is our duty to not give up on the system all together.

Though it may appear things have not changed they are steadily improving. The last column presented in this newsletter was about the *State of the Community*. Our crime rate is down, our vacancy rate is down, but this is no time for complacency. Now is not the time to throw in the towel. Now is not the time to rest on our laurels, we have come too far. There is still an opportunity to best ourselves.

How do you fix a rigged system? Noise. We as a community have to continue to put up a resistance and be the squeaky wheel. We must make sure that the new Mayor and City Hall know our name. We should aim to be exceptional despite the limitations of what anyone else thinks we can be. Union Square has the advantage of numbers, but our biggest enemy is thinking that we can rest.

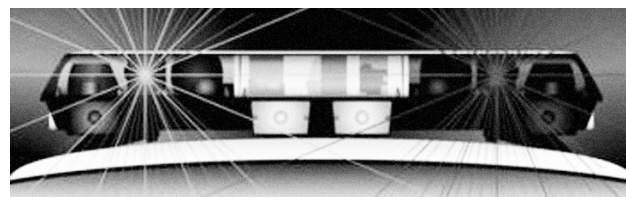
As we move into March, this is the perfect time to breathe new life into an aggressive push to make what we have created here in Union Square even better. What gifts can you contribute to affect change? Are you paying attention or have you given up? The first five people that hand me a piece of paper at the next USA meeting with the main word used throughout this article written on it get a prize. How can YOU continue to put up resistance against the system to have a positive impact on Union Square?

## MEETING | WEDNESDAY, MARCH 3, 2010

The Association meeting will be at our usual location in the Neighborhood Design Center, 1401 Hollins St., at 7:00 pm.

### AGENDA:

There are just a few items to cover, so expect a brief meeting. Presentation and discussion of 2010 budget. Presentation by Ivan Leshinsky about upcoming Bowlathon. Presentation and discussion of Baltimore Community Foundation Neighborhood Grant by Dave Cochran and Cari Schemm.



## EXPLORER'S PROGRAM | LOCAL FUNDRAISER

Since 1971, the Baltimore Police Department's Law Enforcement Explorers Program has been enriching youths from the ages of 14 to 20 by exposing them to many different alternatives and opportunities. The Explorers program partners youth with police officers who serve as mentors, teaching them good citizenship, community involvement, and leadership skills.

Since its inception, the program has grown from one Explorer post in the Northeast District to nine posts across the city, one in each district. Thousands of youth have been exposed to the anti-crime and pro-education messages, and have gone on to become productive citizens in our communities.

Bi-annually, the Explorers attend a national conference which is held on a college campus in North America. Explorer's fellowship with and complete against other youth Explorer programs from around the nation. Our own Southern District Explorers are raising money to attend this years conference by selling "Baltimore City Southern District Police car" models. For more information about the Explorers or their fundraiser contact: Officer Keven Vaught at 410-354-5169.

## NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS | CARI SCHEMM

We encourage submissions, story suggestions, and comments from our community. We are always looking for writers, reporters, artists, and idea people interested in volunteering for this publication. Email [cksage@hotmail.com](mailto:cksage@hotmail.com) your stories or ideas.

[WWW.UNIONSQUAREBALT.COM](http://WWW.UNIONSQUAREBALT.COM)

## PAY IT FORWARD | EMILY COCHRAN

It's amazing how many stories I have heard about people in the neighborhood helping each other out. Especially during our recent snow storms. Since the city seemed to abandon our neighborhood it was up to us to get each other shoveled out. Here is a story from Chris Everett:

*In 15+ years of living in Union Square, I've witnessed many kindnesses shared between neighbors. I've often been the beneficiary and I like to think I've returned my share within our community. During the recent record-breaking snowfall, I was dreading the chore of shoveling the steps and sidewalk in front of my house. The morning after, when the snow had stopped, I was getting ready to go out when I saw that an anonymous neighbor had already done the work. This was different from my previous experience with neighborhood goodwill because I usually know who performed the kindness. I wish I knew who to thank. This thoughtful act was much appreciated.*

Just being able to do something nice for a neighborhood can make someone's day and then in turn cause them to do something for another person and cause a chain reaction. Just adding a little consideration for people can make quality of life so much better.

Another story is a personal one. An extremely nice neighbor, who knew that my husband and I foster dogs on a consistent basis, donated money to us for dog food. We knew that the dogs appreciated but it was such a great feeling knowing that another dog lover was eager to contribute to the cause. It's acts like that, that give you confidence in what you are doing. We will in return show that level of kindness to someone else.

Please email any *Pay it Forward* stories to [emilycochran90@gmail.com](mailto:emilycochran90@gmail.com) Be a part of something even if it is just picking up your neighbors trash can out of the street and putting it in front of their door. It makes a difference!



## CCYD'S 21ST ANNUAL BOWLATHON, KNOCK 'EM DOWN FOR YOUTH

I've had the privilege of leading the Chesapeake Center for Youth Development (CCYD) for about 30 years assisting our staff to develop and run programs and services that actually improve kids's lives, help families cope and make others feel good about partnering with us.

Since I moved to Union Square about 4 years ago, every now and then I'd see kids in the neighborhood who I recognized. Some were former students from our alternative school in Brooklyn. In the past year I've done some research and discovered that many more than I thought, actually live in the southwest Baltimore neighborhoods immediately surrounding Union Square and some within the community itself.

Each year we bring the community together in a celebration at our ANNUAL BOWLATHON FUNDRAISER. The event is Saturday April 24th this year at Ritchie Lanes in Glen Burnie just south of I-695, opposite the MVA and we expect to engage hundreds of "volunteer fundraisers" that include corporate teams, state employees, church groups, nonprofit staff members, and teams of families and friends that have collected pledges and donations to support CCYD programs and services. CCYD is a 501(c) 3 organization and all contributions are fully tax-deductible.

I'll be distributing more information at the community Association meeting on March 3rd and hope that I can count on the participation of enough of my friends and neighbors to register at least two Union Square teams. We have a number of great promotional opportunities for businesses, associations and other participating sponsors. Even if you are unable to attend you can be a *virtual bowler and participant*. For more information go to [www.firstgiving.com/ccyd](http://www.firstgiving.com/ccyd) or contact me at [ivanl@ccyd.org](mailto:ivanl@ccyd.org) or 443-386-0651. Thanks for your support.

## SPRING INTO HEALTH | NATURALLY!

Featuring Naturopathic Medicine and Tai Chi  
Saturday, March 6 | 1:00 - 4:00 pm | \$15 - \$55 suggested donation  
Clay Pots: A Place to Grow | 1635 W. Pratt Street

Presented by the Community-Supported Wellness Initiative  
Questions? Contact Andrea Wenger | 410-566-4258 | RSVP appreciated by March 4

## DEEP RELAXATION WITH SOUND HEALING

Friday, March 19 | 6:00 - 7:00 pm | \$15  
Sanctuary Yoga | 1701 Frederick Ave. (enter on Mount Street)

Allow the soothing vibrations of a crystal singing bowl and Andrea's voice to melt away your stress and restore balance and harmony to your whole being. Yoga Joe will also complement the session with the powerful vibrations of the gong. This healing session is an opportunity to relax deeply and enter a state where significant physical, emotional, mental and spiritual shifts can occur.



**Chris Taylor** | President | [tayfour@msn.com](mailto:tayfour@msn.com) | 443.415.0554

**Kim Crichlow** | Vice President | [kimacrichlow@hotmail.com](mailto:kimacrichlow@hotmail.com)

**Ivan Leshinsky** | Treasurer | [ivanl@ccyd.org](mailto:ivanl@ccyd.org)

**Megan Schulze** | Recording Secretary | [schulzemegan@gmail.com](mailto:schulzemegan@gmail.com)

**Fran Rahl** | Director of Historic Preservation | [francis.rahl@verizon.net](mailto:francis.rahl@verizon.net)

**Cari Schemm** | Corresponding Secretary | [cksage@hotmail.com](mailto:cksage@hotmail.com)

**Sylva Browning** | Director at Large | [sylva.lin@gmail.com](mailto:sylva.lin@gmail.com)

**David Cochran** | Director at Large | [cochran.dh@gmail.com](mailto:cochran.dh@gmail.com)