

# UNION SQUARE

news and notes from around the neighborhood

## PRESIDENT'S LETTER | CHRIS TAYLOR

Welcome back from summer vacation! It's been a couple of months since we've met as an association and I urge everyone to come out to the meeting this Wednesday to kick start a busy fall.

I was fortunate enough to take a month off this summer and visit some extremely beautiful places—away from the city and all of its noise and chaos. I returned last weekend and spent this past week catching up with neighbors, discussing upcoming neighborhood projects, going to the new Westside Farmer's Market, and taking care of our garden. In doing this, I was reminded of all the excitement and energy that comes from living in the city; I was reminded of all the positive and interesting people that have chosen to move to our neighborhood. This got me thinking about an article by Parag Khana in Foreign Policy magazine in which he writes, "The 21st century will not be dominated by America or China, Brazil or India, but by the city. In an age that appears increasingly unmanageable, cities rather than states are becoming the islands of governance on which the future world order will be built." This is in line with the fact that in the last few years for the first time in history more people live in urban areas than in rural areas. More are coming to cities to experience diversity, explore possibilities, and seek opportunity. As this trend continues, we must find a way to make our cities and our neighborhoods function properly and become the engines of prosperity in the country.

Our neighborhood is a microcosm of what's playing out on a larger scale in our

country and throughout the world. We have many different people living in close proximity—people of all different economic and education levels, ages, races, and viewpoints. But with terrible economic times, resources and jobs becoming scarcer, and lives becoming more stressful, many people tend to turn inward and isolate themselves from those around them. Some begin to see things as a competition for fewer resources. Some tend to lash out and blame others for what's going on. But we will not be successful this way. The only way we can survive as a community is to break down walls, not build them. We must reject small mindedness and attempts to isolate power and instead bring as many people as we can together to work toward building a safer and better neighborhood. Every decision that we make should be based upon being inclusive and welcoming to all those that want to work together to build a better Union Square. People need to feel that they are a part of something in order to invest in it and take ownership and responsibility for it. We can never dictate or force people to follow our rules and social mores. But by being fair, open, and welcoming we can make them want to.

This fall, as we begin grant work to assist with beautification on Calhoun Street, as we plan our 25th anniversary Cookie Tour, as we work toward a community 5K race, as we near the end of our fifth straight year of ONE HUNDRED plus members, as we continue to move our neighborhood forward, the reality is we have to work together. So join us. Come out and be a part of the future of Union Square.

## MEETING: WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2010

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

**AGENDA:** This month's meeting will feature four presentations: Sowebo Landmark 5k; Calhoun Street and community beautification grant; Streetscape planning and events; and the 25th Cookie Tour. We will also be discussing the formation of a new architectural review committee and a request made to Parks and Rec by some residents of Union Square to have benches removed from the park.

## GRANT KICK OFF EVENT | CALHOUN STREET

Come out and give a few minutes of your time on Saturday, September 11 to help place, fill and plant several new large flower planters. This is the first of many events supported by the Baltimore Community Foundation Neighborhood Grants Program to beautify Calhoun and the rest of the streets around Union Square. We'll be starting at the corner of Calhoun and Hollins at 8 a.m. and working our way south along Calhoun. We hope to see you there!

## WESTSIDE FARMER'S MARKET | BUY LOCAL

Support our side of town! Visit the Farmer's Market located in the West Baltimore MARC Station Parking Lot. The 400 block of Smallwood Street between Franklin and Mulberry. Every Saturday through November 20th. Hours: 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.

## 25TH ANNUAL COOKIE TOUR

It's never too early to start planning for the Cookie Tour. If you are interested in putting your house on the tour this year, please contact Fran Rahl at [francis.rah1@verizon.net](mailto:francis.rah1@verizon.net)

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

## TURN YOUR PAPER INTO CASH | KIM CRICHLAW

The Paper Retriever® program is a simple and free service that will allow Union Square to turn paper recycling into money for schools and local organizations. Distinctive green and yellow Paper Retriever bins with a bright painted golden retriever dog are provided to encourage the community to bring their paper and put it into a convenient drop off location. The paper is then weighed at pick-up and then school or organization gets money based on how much they collect. The company accepts catalogs, magazines, newspapers, junk mail, office paper, fax paper, school paper, notebooks, and folders.

Paper placed in Paper Retriever bins is sent directly to paper mills and is remanufactured into newsprint within a few weeks of collection.

Paper Retriever takes:

- Newspaper and inserts – New newsprint can be made from 100% recycled paper
- Magazines/catalogs – Our Retriever program is happy to take magazines and catalogs, all slick paper except paper coated in wax.
- Office/School papers – These types of paper are highly recyclable. They accept window envelopes, paperback books, workbooks and staples without a problem. Shredded paper is acceptable but please bags the shreds before putting them in the Retriever bin. However, please do not recycle colored paper, wrapping or tissue paper, carbon paper or sticky notes.
- Mail – Most direct mail is printed on high quality recyclable paper. Please recycle the mail that you feel comfortable putting in our recycling bin.

Do not deposit:

- Cardboard
- Phone Books
- Food boxes, fiberboard or chipboard
- No textbooks or hard cover books

The Paper Retriever program benefits society and organizations in the following ways:

- Benefits the environment and community – through the recycling of newspapers, magazines, catalogs and mail, each participating organization reduces landfill use, saves water and energy.
- Promotes environmental stewardship and education – Paper Retriever provides free materials to support each organization's recycling program. We also work with the program coordinators to foster environmental stewardship through recycling and environmental activities.
- Unrestricted funds – all Paper Retriever trucks are equipped with the latest on-board scales and computers allowing the weight of paper to be individually recorded at the time of pick-up.

Our nearest school bin is located at:  
Franklin Square Elementary School  
1400 W. Lexington St.  
Baltimore, MD

There may be other organizations on the list you may want to generate revenue for through Paper Retriever. For more information on where to find the nearest bins or more information on Paper Retriever please visits: [www.paperretriever.com](http://www.paperretriever.com)



## TREES, TREES AND MORE TREES

TreeBaltimore, a Recreation and Parks program, recently launched the TreeNeighborhood program to provide 1/2 price trees (\$10) to all neighborhoods.

We are also asking residents to adopt a tree either by contributing to buy a tree for their

street tree well or by committing to take care one.

To sign up for either program stop by the association meeting and fill out the appropriate form. We're hoping to collect at least 50 trees through these initiatives, please consider supporting a tree today!

## CLAY POTS | A PLACE TO GROW

September 9 | 7:30 p.m. | Live music at the coffeehouse – Karter Jaymes, The Image of Soul

September 23 | 7:30 p.m. | Live music at the coffeehouse – Papa T, world beat.

Stop by to view the photo show of local artist David Williams during coffeehouse hours:

Thursday evening 7:30 -10:00 p.m.

Friday morning 9:00-12:00 noon

Saturday morning 9:00-12:00 noon

Visit us at 1635 W. Pratt Street or on the web at <http://anewfaithcommunity.tripod.com>

## RELAXATION HOUR

Community-Supported Wellness introduces a weekly relaxation hour. Relax, chill, take your mind off your worries and learn to B-more at peace in your daily life. This hour may include approaches such as deep breathing, gentle yoga, meditation practices, sound healing, tai chi and more.

Clay Pots | 1635 W. Pratt St. | 6:15pm to 7:15pm

Starting Thursday September 23rd | Contribution: \$3 - \$15



**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)