

UNION SQUARE

news and notes from around the neighborhood

Bring May Flowers

Kimberly Crichlow, President

Have the seeds we have sown bore any fruit? I would say yes, and it is time to celebrate. For the board of Union Square we are nearing the midway point in the year where we will get a summer break before we push for the close of the year. It will be a time to gauge how well the seeds we have planted since January and previous years have flourished. We will have a look at our membership numbers. We will seek to have an informal get together this summer that will get us out of the confines of the Design Center building and out into our lovely park. Read the June newsletter for the details that will be coming soon. We will have our last formal meeting this May 4th 2011 at 1401 Hollins Street. We still need your membership and your support.

We had a great spring cleanup in April but now Union Square is giving you the opportunity to get rid of your excess stuff growing dust in your basements, garages and spare rooms by participating in the first ever Union Square Community Sidewalk Sale. It will be a great time come out and sell or buy. This is expected to be an exciting fundraiser. Additional details can be found in this newsletter.

There is still time to Bloom your Block. Personally my home is where plants go to die but I will make my best effort to help my block show their very best. You still have time get some color and foliage on your property. The goal is to encourage and enable all residents of Union Square to have a nice flower pot with a beautiful, thriving plant or plants on their front steps or sidewalk. The contest will be judged on Saturday June 25th 2011.

Lastly, the 2011 Sowebo Arts & Music Festival will take place on Sunday May 29th from noon to - 8pm. The 26th annual festival, which draws thousands each year and transforms the area around the historic Hollins Market into a bustling bazaar, complete with a street café, performance artists and musicians. This is a "Cannot miss" event. I have listed just a taste of what is coming. Do any of these events appeal to you? Do you have an idea for an event? Tell us about it. Perhaps there is something we can do to help you bring your idea to fruition. All an idea needs is to be nurtured to grow. We want the seeds we plant here in Union Square to continue to bud, mature and bear fruit.

Live long and prosper.

Sowebo Landmark 5K

The Sowebo Landmark 5K, Health Fair and KID's Run, scheduled for 10/2/11, is a community initiative to tackle childhood obesity. The event is drawing an array of sponsors including Bon Secours, the UMD Bio Park, the B & O Museum and the Parks and People Foundation. The next planning meeting is Thursday, 5/19/11 at 7:00 PM at 1401 Hollins St. Please join us or go to www.soweboLandmark5k for more information.

May 2011

**Next Meeting: Wednesday,
May 4, 7:00 PM 1401 Hollins St.**

Streetscape Summer Schedule:

Meetings: Sundays, 5/14, 6/12, 7/10 & 8/14, 7:00 PM at 43 S. Stricker St.

Monthly Clean Ups/Street: Saturdays, 10–12 PM. Meet in the park.

May 21st / Fulton Ave, June 18th/Hollins July 16th/Pratt St., August 20th/Carey St.

If the monthly clean up is on your street, please join us to keep a positive presence in our beautiful neighborhood. **Huge thanks to all who have participated in our monthly clean ups!** These clean ups have become so much more than just picking up trash. When neighbors come together great things happen.

(More Streetscape on back page)

Preservation Awards in US

Join Baltimore Heritage for a festive evening under tents on the historic Union Square on Friday, June 10. Tickets are \$60 in advance and \$70 at the door but discounted tickets are available for members of the Union Square Association. Five historic Union Square houses, including the H.L. Mencken House and the Turnbull Mansion will be open to tour for the afternoon followed by a reception, awards presentations, and dinner.

Program & Event Schedule

Friday, June 10, 2011

Open Houses | 4:30 PM to 6:30 PM

Awards & Reception | 5:30 to 8:00 PM

Visit baltimoreheritage.org for more information or contact

Johns Hopkins at 410-332-9992. or

hopkins@baltimoreheritage.org.

On Matters of Life and Health - SOUTHWEST CARES

A Johns Hopkins / Baltimore City Health Department report revealed that in 2008, southwest Baltimore area residents had the lowest life expectancy in the city, with the highest or among the highest rates of heart disease and cancer. These outcomes are unacceptable. Southwest Cares is a relatively new organization and believes these outcomes will only change if there is a broad based effort to educate the community about the sources, extent, and impact of the challenges we face; develop a community driven process; create long-lasting, local partnerships that improve trust and coordination among residents, businesses, and government agencies and; establish strategic goals that can be developed, monitored and changed as evidence is gathered.

Southwest Cares is an evolving citizens group motivated to improve healthy outcomes for residents in southwest Baltimore. We have representation and support from the Baltimore City Health Department, neighborhood associations, a medical institution, professionals in the healthcare field and area residents. We are striving for a systematic approach to address health and environmental issues in five areas. 1) trash and pests; 2) vacant lots; 3) community green spaces; 4) healthy housing; 5) access to fresh fruits and vegetables. There has been much groundwork developed through many well-attended community-planning meetings over a two-year period.

We would like to have a representative from Union Square Association participate in our efforts. We meet monthly at Transfiguration Catholic meeting hall in Pigtown, on the second Tuesday of each month at 6:30 pm. There is an open invitation for more citizen and organizational input and direction. A Union Square resident at the table with other association representatives would connect our Association with the important work being undertaken by Southwest Cares. Micha Dannenberg is the group's interim chair and he can be reached at 443-423-4321. He'd be happy to answer any additional questions you have

Trash to Cash - Community Sidewalk Sale

Union Square is hosting a community sidewalk sale on Saturday, May 14, 2011 from 8 am to 12 noon. So if you are doing some spring cleaning or just have stuff that needs to go, come join us for a spot in the park or set up in front of your house. The cost is \$10. This will cover the cost of printing maps that will be handed out to shoppers as well as the permit fee. Any extra funds would go back to the Union Square Association to support many of the on going projects like clean-ups and movies in the park. If you are interested in participating please call Cari Schemm at 571-275-6145 or email unionsquareassociation@gmail.com. Come out to the park after the sidewalk sale from 1 to 2 pm to help us **celebrate Union Square's 165th birthday!** In commemoration we will be giving away 165 cupcakes/ice cream sandwiches to the first 165 people - when they're gone - they're gone! Rain date will be Sunday, May 15th.

Union Square JOB Opening

A part-time park caretaker / stewardship position may become available for Union Square Park pending funding. Interested individuals are encouraged to contact William Vondrasek at Baltimore City Department of Recreation & Parks at (410) 396-7900 or William.Vondrasek@baltimorecity.gov

(Streetscape Cont' from front page)

Bloom Your Block

We are collecting donations of pots, plants and soil in the month of May. Pots will be put together and distributed in June. For more info contact Andrea 571-264-3885 or Sal 302-270-5503.

Union Square Decals

The Streetscape Committee will be selling car decals to raise money for our projects. The decals are \$3.00 ea or 2 for \$5.00. Come check out the cool designs and buy a few to promote the best neighborhood in Baltimore. Contact Andrea 571-264-3885.

26th Annual SOWEBO Festival

This year's 26th Annual Sowebo Festival will be held around the Hollins Market on Sunday, May 29, 2011, 12 noon until 8 PM. Organizers are in need of volunteers as follows: 1) Watch over the art show for a 2-hour shift, 2) Beer Truck: Check ID's, Pour beer from the truck, pour wine by the glass 3) Children's Arts and Crafts - any and all help needed. If you want to have a rockin' good time AND get a free SOWEBO t-shirt to boot, please call Bill Adler at 410-566-8368.

Artists who wish to donate their art to the art show and auction can pick up a blank poster at the Union Square meeting on Wednesday, or at Zellas Pizzeria. Posters come in two sizes. Deadline to turn it in is May 14, 2011 at Zellas, the Adler Gallery (100 S. Stricker St), School 33 or the Creative Alliance (Eastern Ave).



Kim Crichlow | President | kimacrichlow@hotmail.com

Cari Schemm | Vice President | cksage@hotmail.com

Eboni Zook | Treasurer | ebzook@gmail.com

Emily Cochran | Recording Secretary | emilycochran90@gmail.com

Ivan Leshinsky | Corresponding Secretary | ivanl@ccyd.org

Dave Cochran | Historic Preservation | cochran.dh@gmail.com

Babette Leshinsky | Historic Preservation | bleshinsky@keyschool.org

Jacob Booher | Director at Large | hooyahbooher@yahoo.com

Andrea Leahy | Director at Large | and.cu@hotmail.com

Board Members are here to help you with any questions or concerns.