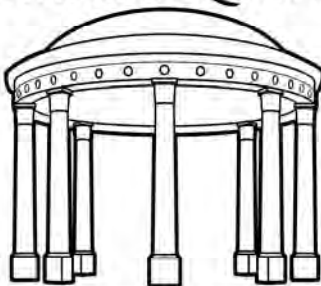


2005

Union Square



CHRISTMAS COOKIE
TOUR 20

The Union Square Association thanks
The Baltimore Sun for their continued
support of this community event



THE SUN
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You are cordially invited to visit
The Artists' Mart

at 100 South Stricker Street

sponsored by

Sowebo Arts, Inc.

a non-profit organization promoting creative
arts in South West Baltimore.

Open Sunday, December 11th as part of the
Union Square Holiday Cookie Tour.

Learn more about Sowebo Arts, Inc. at www.soweboarts.org



Welcome to Union Square!

*Close
to the
Heart*



Merry Christmas! Enjoy
your visit to our unique
neighborhood in historic
Sowebo. Learn more when
you get home - visit our site.

Union Square Online is a
site for residents of, and
those interested in, the
historic Union Square and
Hollins Market neighbor-
hoods of SoWeBo. The site
has facts, events, maps,
sights, a photo gallery, and
lots more. There's also a
very witty messageboard
(The Public Square) where

folks talk about the area
and each other...
Check it out for yourself!

If you have no computer,
pass this info to friends
or family who do. Go to:
www.union-square.us

Questions? E-mail to:
Chris@union-square.us

Learn more at:
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Union Square Online

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Please note: The cookies scheduled to be served at each house are subject to change... but all are sure to be delicious!



2005 SEASON'S GREETINGS

from the Cookie Tour Committee

The Union Square neighborhood welcomes you to our 20th annual Christmas Cookie Tour. We hope you enjoy the afternoon stroll through our National Register of Historic Places district, and through the many fine 19th century homes opened for your pleasure. If you are new to our tour, you may be surprised to find that while we are very consistent in our views of proper Victorian streetscape, we vary widely in our concepts of interior decor. Our homes run the gamut of style from country to contemporary, with eclectic coexistence as a common rule.

You may also be surprised to find an extremely strong sense of community among our “family” of neighbors. We all know one another, and we work together – not only in rebuilding our homes, but also in rebuilding this fine neighborhood. This tour, which benefits historic preservation and local charitable efforts, is but one example of the spirit that makes Union Square a great place to live.

Tour homes are listed in the table of contents in a logical walking order. However, you may begin the tour at any point, following the street map on the inside cover of this program. Visit us in any order and sample our cookies as you go. We ask that you tread our ancient floors and stairs carefully and at your own risk. Please do not touch walls, art work, and decorative items. Some homes will be serving beverages for your pleasure. Please be extra careful with cups or glasses of liquids. And if you smoke, please do so between houses.

Thank you for joining us. Have a happy holiday.



UNION SQUARE HISTORY

The story of Union Square begins in 1799 with the construction of a manor house by Thorogood Smith, a merchant whose fortunes ebbed before he was able to occupy the house. It sold at auction in 1802 to John Donnell, another merchant and banker. Smith later regained his fortune and became Baltimore's second mayor.

Members of the Donnell family occupied Willowbrook for many years and kept it in its original 26-acre country estate form until about 1846. At this time, the surviving sons began a speculative housing development. Most of the land was divided into building lots, streets were laid according to Poppleton's plan, and embellishment of the square was begun by the City.

Development continued steadily through the 1850's with the typical aggravations (schedule problems, specification issues, builder bankruptcies, and bureaucratic delays), up to the tense pre-war times. There was a 20-year pause in major progress; but, by the 1890's the neighborhood had taken its current general form.

In 1867 the Donnells left Willowbrook, which by then was just one square block to the immediate west of the square (now the site of Steuart Hill Academic Academy), and the house was given to the Sisters of the Good Shepherd. Willowbrook became a walled compound with many new buildings and additions. It served as a convent and home for wayward girls until its demolition in the mid 1960's. Demolition was the catalyst for rebirth of the neighborhood, stimulating historic preservation and creation of the Union Square Association. The oval dining room was removed from the mansion and recreated in

the Baltimore Museum where it remains a part of the original museum wing (American Decorative Arts). Elaborate plasterwork was restored and recreated by the late Chancery W. Dunlap, Union Square resident and master plasterer.

The Union Square neighborhood became a local historic preservation district in 1970 and, combined with the adjoining Hollins Market area, was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1983.

In 1997, the well-preserved square played the title role in the film *Washington Square*, with several nearby homes in supporting roles. Other parts of the neighborhood have also appeared in episodes of "Homicide – Life on the Street," "The Wire," various commercials, and a few other movies.



1401 HOLLINS ST

*The Neighborhood Design Center
(Ticket Sales, Directions & Gifts)*

We are pleased to have use of the “Old No. 2” branch library building as our tour headquarters. Renovations were completed several years ago on this wonderful old building which had been vacant for many years. One of the four original branches of the Enoch Pratt Free Library, it was H. L. Mencken’s neighborhood library. Now it serves as home of the Neighborhood Design Center, an organization that helps community projects with architectural and engineering services. The main room can be arranged to suit a variety of purposes for NDC and the surrounding community. The rebirth of “Old No. 2” was accomplished through a partnership of the Enoch Pratt Free Library, the Neighborhood Design Center, and the Union Square Association. “Old No. 2” is a case study of how a seemingly out-of-date structure can be put to exciting new uses.

Upon leaving the Old No. 2 building, you may stop by the homes featured in the 1400 block of Hollins St., or follow this guide to any starting point. If you begin by walking toward the Square, imagine you are following the footsteps of our most famous former resident, H. L. Mencken. The trek up the 1400 block of Hollins Street between the library and his home on the square was a regular exercise.

The Union Square Association incorporated in the 1960’s to promote historic preservation. It has developed into an organization with broad community objectives, still promoting historic preservation, but also dealing with quality of life issues. Please be sure to say hello to representatives of the Association who will be in the “Old No. 2” building all day.

You’re also invited to visit our website, *Union Square Online* at: www.union-square.us.

URBAN CHRISTMAS SHOP

Please be sure to spend some time in our Urban Christmas Shop located by the ticket sales area.

You just might find a last minute gift for someone on your list or for yourself. The store is provided by our neighbor Diane Asher.

More gift items are for sale at 120 South Gilmore Street, the charming home of Leslie Dell.



1410 HOLLINS ST

Ron and Betty Brown

The Browns moved to their large, pre-Civil War, Union Square townhouse in January 1976. Though natives of suburbia, they quickly became acclimated to downtown living. Over the years, extensive renovations have been required in most parts of the house. The Browns have done most of the work themselves.

The home was originally a fine Victorian residence, well-appointed with ten fireplaces. Nine are functional, including one in the main bathroom. The kitchen fireplace required extensive restoration. The front of the house was chemically cleaned; but the owners did painting and addition of exterior shutters.

At the rear of the property is a small garden with a fountain. The main kitchen, adjoining laundry room, and bath have been completely remodeled. A spacious family room/study has been added on the third floor rear.

Don't miss the bath, which features a Jacuzzi, on the third floor. And be sure to visit the "Crow Bar" in the basement.

All three floors are open.

SPRITZ COOKIES

1 cup butter or margarine, softened
2 $\frac{1}{3}$ cups all-purpose flour
1 cup sugar
 $\frac{1}{2}$ tsp. baking powder
1 egg
 $\frac{1}{4}$ tsp. salt
1 tsp. vanilla or $\frac{1}{2}$ tsp. almond extract

Cream butter and sugar; blend in egg and flavoring. Combine dry ingredients; stir into creamed mixture.

Mix well.

Do not chill the dough. Pack dough, half at a time, in cookie press. Press into desired shapes on un-greased cookie sheet. If desired, sprinkle with colored sugar crystals or trim with pieces of red and green candied cherries, pressing cherries lightly into dough.

Bake at 400 degrees for 7 to 8 minutes.

Cool.

Makes about 6 dozen.



1417 HOLLINS ST

Marc Greene & Michael Hosley

Our home was built circa 1900, in the Italianate style, popular in its day. We purchased the home in February 2001 and moved in approximately one year later. The home was in disrepair for a number of years and needed some TLC.

The home as undergone extensive renovations and is still in the renovation process. To highlight some of the renovations to date, would include but not limited to: complete electrical rewiring and upgrade, new roof, new plumbing throughout, new HVAC, new windows and doors and a French drainage system in the lower level.

Although the house has its traditional roots, you will find this home very much conducive to today's modern lifestyle. This four-bedroom home has many modern amenities that one would expect in that of a comparable home in perhaps Bolton Hill.

Beginning with the new gourmet kitchen in the lower level of the home, with state of the art appliances and granite counter tops, and integrated family room, make food preparation and dining an enjoyable experience. There's also a powder room located in the lower level as well. One the first level, there's a formal living room, (under renovation) formal dining room/wet bar, powder room and proposed 20' x 18' deck. The second floor consists of as master bedroom and bath, laundry room, secondary bedroom and a full bath with claw foot tub. The third floor has two bedrooms and a full bath as well.

The chocolate chip cookie recipe is a guarded family recipe.

1420 HOLLINS ST

Tonya M. Osborne, Esq.

Constructed during the early 1840's, 1420 Hollins Street reflects the contributions of many Union Square principals. The Donnell Brothers, creators of Union Square, designed 1420 Hollins Street to a scale largely unmatched, even in this neighborhood of generous and luxurious homes. A butcher at nearby Hollins Market owned the house for most of the twentieth century. Also, Union Square neighbor, Ardebella Fox, completely renovated the house in the 1970's, with the assistance of master plasterer and Union Square resident, the late Chancery W. Dunlap. In 1997, 1420 Hollins Street was featured in the movie, *Washington Square*, an adaptation of Henry James' novel of the same name.

Notable characteristics include the original fanlight above the front doors, double parlors, the leaded glass bay window in the formal dining room, and an 1850's-style garden, including a flagstone patio and water fountain. In addition, antique light fixtures throughout, although not original to the house, exemplify the transitional period between gas and electric fixtures.

In the next few years, Ms. Osborne hopes to undertake a major restoration of the house and its grounds, which were severely damaged by the prior owners' pets.

This year, the second floor will be open for and included in the tour.

You are invited to enjoy the delicious gingerbread cookies.



1512 HOLLINS ST

*Albert and Belinda Reed &
Justin Gardner (and Jodie & Max)*

Our family has resided in this house about 1½ years. We opened our home for the 2004 Cookie Tour, although the living room was incomplete. When we purchased it in June 2004, 75% of the rehab work had been beautifully and meticulously completed. We have since finished the living room and, just like that loose string on your coat, the more you pull, the more is revealed to tackle.

Built in the 1880's, our home and 1510 next door were joined by Joseph L. Beyer, Jr. to house a funeral parlor. The entranceway into the house next door would have been the shared wall beginning at the foot of the stairs when you enter our home. Proof of Mr. Beyer's proprietorship rests not in a discovered embalming tool, but in a simple marketing effort; a thermometer given to his customers. You can observe this small treasure hanging on the wall, as you step into the kitchen.

The first two rooms on the main floor were refurbished as close to period style as possible, but the rest is more contemporary due to extensive restructuring by the previous owner. This home is like many others in the neighborhood almost destroyed by neglect, and/or converted into multiple dwellings.

There is a detached garage, very convenient for living in the city, and an ample back yard for our two very healthy adult puppies. The garage had a complete roof and joist replacement, as well as a wall rebuilt, and painted trim. The back yard was redone this summer, a sidewalk was replaced with a walking path, and a second patio was built to enjoy a fire by the chiminea. We also painted window and door trim this fall and are currently redoing the basement floor because,

just like some of my fellow neighbors, we had a dirt floor.

As stated earlier, the unraveling continues to bring new challenges and never-ending long weekends to confront an endless to-do list.

As president of Union Square Association, I would like to welcome former residents, returning guests, and first time visitors to our neighborhood. Welcome to our home, and welcome to the charm of Union Square on this 20th anniversary of our cookie tour.

DARBY COCOA KISS COOKIES

from The Darby Field Inn in Albany, New Hampshire

- 1 cup butter, softened
- $\frac{2}{3}$ cup sugar
- 1 tsp. vanilla
- 1 $\frac{2}{3}$ cups unsifted all-purpose flour
- $\frac{1}{4}$ cup cocoa
- 1 cup finely chopped walnuts
- Confectioner's sugar
- 1 9-oz. pkg. Hershey Kisses, unwrapped

Preheat oven to 375 degrees. Cream butter, sugar & vanilla in large mixer bowl. Combine flour & cocoa, then blend into butter mixture. Add walnuts; beat on low speed until well blended. Chill about one hour until firm enough to handle. Shape into balls. Press kisses into middle of each and place on ungreased cookie sheet. Bake 10-12 minutes or until set. Cool slightly. Remove to wire rack & cool completely. Roll in confectioner's sugar. If desired, roll in sugar again before serving.

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1524 HOLLINS ST

H. L. Mencken House

In the block of three-story Italianate-style row houses built by Jacob Saum in 1883 and running across the north side of Union Square, the one at number 1524 Hollins Street is noteworthy in the world of letters.

In October 1883, August Mencken Sr., a cigar manufacturer, purchased the house and moved his family into it. His first child, Henry Louis Mencken, aged three, would (except for the time from September 1930 to March 1936) call this house his home for the remaining seventy-two years of his life.

H. L. Mencken (1880-1957), "The Sage of Baltimore," was perhaps the most influential journalist and social and literary critic in the 1920s. In addition to being a columnist for the Baltimore *Evening Sun*, he edited *The Smart Set* and co-founded and edited the *American Mercury*. By his estimate, he wrote over ten million words. Mr. Mencken is a figure of enduring interest, many of his books are still in print, and he remains the subject of literary and biographic controversy.

Of particular interest is the back yard of his house which, to this day, carries his marks. Scattered throughout the yard are one hundred sixteen examples of decorative tiles made at the Moravian Pottery and Tile Works in Doylestown, PA. In the southwest corner, against the brick wall on the west side of the yard in which is embedded Beethoven's death-mask, is a plaque *in memoriam* Tessie the Dog (1905-1921). The yard is full of such clues as to the personality which shaped it.

The house entered the register of National Historic Landmarks on July 28, 1983, was opened to the public on June 15, 1984 as a component of Baltimore's City Life Museum, and closed on June 20, 1997 with the

Museum's failure. It is still not generally open to the public though there is an vigorous ongoing effort by The Friends of the H. L. Mencken House, working with other interested organizations, to once again make the house accessible to the public in some way.

The H. L. Mencken House is open today courtesy of The Friends of the H. L. Mencken House.



1616 HOLLINS ST

Ed Knowles & Carl Dahlstrom

Work on this three-story brick Victorian row house was completed in 1872, taking a few months longer in construction than the houses in the same block because of the extra fine architectural finish details used throughout. The mixing of English, French, Italian, and Greek design details from numerous periods originally and as the house has been modified over the years adds to the eclectic design the Victorians are known for. This 19th century enthusiasm for mixing starts on the outside of the house with the Italian influence of the marble steps, bracketed roof cornice and segmental arch window tops, the English influence of the exposed red brick, and the French influence of the wrought iron window guards with leaf and flower scrolls and the espaliered garden planting.

The entry vestibule has blue wallpaper and a six-colour marble inlaid floor in a serpentine interconnecting design derived from Italian sources popular in the 1800's. The ceiling fixture is an electrified combination gas/electric brass fixture with a pineapple shaped crystal globe, which signifies hospitality.

The living room, or parlour as it would have been called, features oak floors inlaid with walnut, mahogany, and birch borders creating an intertwining French knot design. Perhaps the most striking element of the room is the black wall covering and painted ceiling, cornices, frieze, fireplace and trim. The black walls highlight the antique prints, ceramics, and period furniture. The fireplace, which dominates the room, is in the Tutor style with a mirror and gold gilded framed over mantel. The hearth is surrounded with marble in a "liver brown" colour popular in

the late 19th century. The plaster ceiling is centered on a large Greek revival plaster medallion of acanthus leaves and egg and dart design. It is surrounded by eight nude nymphets emerging from foliage and holding flowers in the Neoclassical style, and surrounded with five pointed stars, which is an American design element. There is an egg and dart pattern coved cornice and a Greek urn and garland frieze and picture rail. The brass and crystal six arm light fixture features stylized Greek revival leaves. The room also contains a wood chair rail, decorative trim, and carved wood corbels.

The dining room is similar in detail to the living room except for the frieze, which has Greek revival honeysuckle and arabesque designs with Wedgwood plaques. The main feature of the room is the 1880's carved dark cedar tavernell marble fireplace mantel. This brown color marble was perhaps the most popular marbles used during the Victorian period in the US and is often used for tops to furniture. The "salmon" colour wall covering, while not a traditional 19th century colour, gives the room a warm glow and contrasts Wedgwood and gold gilded mirror. Framed prints in the room are of various periods. There is a corner china closet, with Chinese export porcelain with the same colour as the walls.

The kitchen has been modernized with contemporary appliances and oak cabinets but retains the original architectural details of the room. The walk-in fireplace remains but has been modified to increase counter space.



1618 HOLLINS ST

Melvin L. and Ardebella Dean Fox

These homes were built during the time when wonderful woods were available. This is evident by the Oak front staircase, the Walnut rear stair case, the Georgia Pine floors, and the wide, intricately designed trim of the doors and windows.

One must truly appreciate the work of the “artist” as he molded freehand the plaster moldings. Many of our homes have marble and slate fireplaces.

Melvin’s family has lived in Union Square for over 100 years. We love the neighborhood and will be happy to assist you in finding a home in our community.

1628 HOLLINS ST

*Diane Asher
(Window Display)*

Every year the Santa is in the window. It’s a tradition!

No wonder people stop their cars or go home and return with their children. He looks so real with his blue glass eyes and velvet suit. All year, people say “we are waiting for the Santa in the window.”

The other window is decorated with a Victorian lace curtain, featuring the outline of a Christmas tree embedded in lights.

BOURBON BALLS

- ½ cup Bourbon
- 1 cup vanilla wafers finely rolled
- 1 ½ tablespoons white corn syrup
- 1 cup pecans, finely chopped
- 2 tablespoons cocoa

Mix bourbon and syrup together. Add crumbs, nuts, and cocoa. Dust hands with powdered sugar. Roll balls the size of a walnut. Roll bourbon balls in powdered sugar. Store in refrigerator between layers of wax paper.

Makes about 24 balls.

Diane operates the Urban Christmas Shop in the library on the day of the tour, so she is unable to open her house.



1632 HOLLINS ST

Antonio and Jennifer Clinkscales

We became residents of Union Square in 1996 at 1635 Frederick Road, as tenants of Diane Asher. Being so impressed with the neighborhood, we decided to buy our first home here in Union Square. We then asked Diane to sell us this house and she, being such a wonderful person, agreed. This house was beautiful at the time we bought it so there wasn't much to do. Just to add our own personal touches, we have begun to paint – beginning with the first floor – using shades of butter.

We don't know much about the history of our home except that it was built in the late 1800's and that the back yard used to be a gas station. We would welcome any additional information our neighbors may have concerning our home so we can share it with our visitors.

We have truly come to love our home and our neighborhood.

Antonio & Jennifer

CHOCOLATE CHIP NUT COOKIES

2 sticks butter softened
2 ¼ cups flour
2 eggs
1 tsp. salt
¾ cup brown sugar
1 tsp. baking powder
¾ cup of sugar
1 cup of nuts
1 tsp. of vanilla
2 cups of chocolate chips

Mix butter, eggs, both sugars, and vanilla in a large bowl. Next, mix flour, salt and baking powder, then sift slowly the dry ingredients in with the wet mixture, mix all ingredients well. Now add nuts and chocolate chips to the mixture. Drop a teaspoon at a time of cookie mixture onto a lightly oiled cookie sheet about 1 ½ inches apart. (For best results use a cooking oil spray.) This recipe makes about 3 dozen cookies.



1727 HOLLINS ST
Christopher Taylor

This grand townhouse was built in 1870 as a luxury residence of the Union Square District. It was constructed using the highest quality materials and craftsmanship of the day. Unfortunately, over the years, the house was converted into a four-unit apartment building and much of its original character was lost. Now it is being restored into a grand single family residence once again.

The formstone has been removed from the facade revealing the house's historic character of brick and marble. The interior has been cleaned out revealing its original structure and space, creating an open floor plan that will allow us to blend the historic structure with modern style and architecture.

When finished, the house will have three large bedroom suites; each with its own full bath, fireplace and ample closet space. The expansive living room has twelve foot ceilings and a beautiful black slate mantel against a brick fireplace. The dining room will be wrapped in light in the summer from its two windows and warmed by its fireplace in the winter. A custom gourmet kitchen will feature stainless steel appliances, granite countertops and cherry cabinetry. Tying all of these wonderful spaces together is a sleek steel staircase with a custom wrought iron and wood railing. Open landings allow the skylight to flood down from the third floor to the first floor.

Come see this massive space, have some cookies and imagine the possibilities! Available for purchase in Spring 2006.

Happy Holidays!

The cookies are baked by professionals—as our kitchen is under construction.

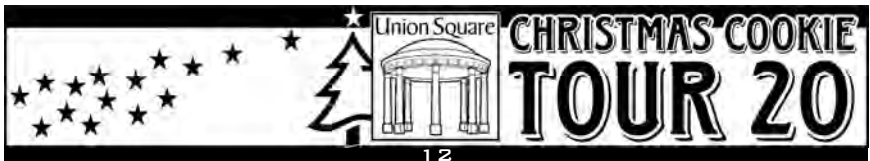
104 SOUTH GILMOR ST
William and Matthew Kisvan

Come see this recently renovated home that is now **For Sale**.

This late 19th century home was historically restored with a few modern updates.

It still has the original wood floors, plaster with intricate detail and molding, original interior wood shutters, and an original claw foot tub that has been restored.

Enjoy a cookie as you look around.



120 SOUTH GILMOR ST

Leslie Dell

This late nineteenth century house had many of the original features removed or changed over the years. But what you'll find now is a very warm, cozy and inviting home – a combination of Victorian and country. Wood floors and exposed brick walls on every floor add charm and warmth. Stained glass windows throughout were made by Leslie. This home is a perfect setting for all her antiques, arts and crafts collected over the last 20 years. While the stairwell is narrow, be sure to take time to push your way through so you can see changes on the second floor (where the kitchen is also located). You'll see lots of stuffed dolls and full sized stocking-faced dolls (Arthurson the golfer and Santa). There may also be a witch or two hanging around. Don't miss the formal library/dining area as well as a craft room addition – the craft room is all the way through the kitchen on the right side – just keep walking farther when you think you've come to the back of the house – you haven't! While the 3rd floor will not be open for the tour, take a moment while you're on the 2nd floor to look up at the 3rd floor landing with the huge tri-fold mirror doors residing there and be happy you were not involved in helping to get them there! Leslie's home is open for your viewing pleasure and also for your holiday gift-buying needs. She has some beautiful holiday decorations to enhance your own home. Items for sale will be prominently displayed with a large, colorful tag, primarily in the first floor apartment and in the second floor craft room. If it doesn't have a tag, it's just one of many of her own collection.

Happy Holidays!

Come browse and share a cup of hot mulled cider and other spirits as offered.

1425 WEST LOMBARD ST

Daryl Napier

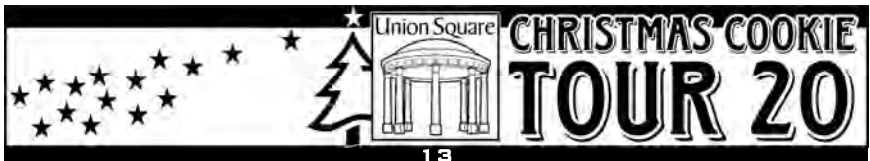
This home was built in 1903 as a single-family dwelling. Over the years it was converted into six one-bedroom apartment units. Daryl purchased the building in August 2000 and began converting it back to a single-family home.

This residence now consists of a formal living room, entertainment area, large eat-in kitchen, laundry and half-bath on the first floor. The second level has two guest bedrooms and full bath, and also a master bedroom with a master bath.

The third level consists of a mother-in-law suite. Also, a lounge and gym area are under construction.

The house is shared with Sean and two energetic Schnauzers, Shasta and Sheba.

The cookie recipe is a family secret – sorry.



108 SOUTH STRICKER ST

Amy Spatz

My house was constructed in 1900 and I have been here since July 1998. The house was stylishly adapted for contemporary use by two previous owners. I have made the mechanical and personal renovations that make the home suitable for the 21st Century. The house retains its turn-of-the-century character with a stained glass transom, marble stairs and wrought iron at the entrance. It also has a fine old wood burning stove in the formal front living room and curved stairway with a solid walnut banister and turned spindles with scrolled trim adorning each stair to the second and third floor. There are original tin ceilings in the kitchen and one bedroom/office on the second floor. After two years, I learned how to properly light a fine German-built cast-iron coal stove in the dining room.

During my tenure, I have upgraded the electrical service, renovated the kitchen, added a brick patio in the rear, renovated one bathroom and added a second bathroom. What I like best about my home is the second floor atrium-like space above the dining area, with a skylight, my outdoor patio and garden area, shared with my northern neighbor Paula, and my 2nd story rooftop vegetable and herb garden.

My grandfather restored hundreds of 1920 player pianos as a hobby/small business and hopefully my “thirty-year old restoration” will be playing well and you can “pump” your favorite Christmas carol or Broadway show tune during your visit.

Amy

CHOCOLATE GINGERSNAP TRUFFLES

8 oz semisweet chocolate, chopped
1/2 c. (1 stick) unsalted butter
2/3 c. finely-crushed gingersnaps
3 tbs. Jack Daniel's whiskey
1/2 c. unsweetened cocoa powder
1/2 c. powdered sugar

Melt chocolate and butter in a heavy medium saucepan over low heat, stirring until smooth. Mix in crushed cookies and whiskey. Pour into bowl. Cover and chill until firm, about 45 minutes.

Line cookie sheet with foil. Drop truffle mixture by tablespoons onto foil, spacing apart. Freeze 15 minutes. Roll each between palms of hands into smooth round. Sift cocoa powder and sugar into shallow dish. Roll each truffle in cocoa mixture. (Can be prepared 1 week ahead. Cover and refrigerate in air-tight container.) Let stand 15 minutes at room temperature before serving. – Bon Appetit



100 SOUTH STRICKER ST

Debbie and Bill Adler

(Home of SoWeBo Arts, Inc.)

We bid you a warm Christmas welcome to our home, one of the oldest in Union Square. This 8,000 square-foot white elephant is still in a renovation mode. All is in keeping with historical preservation requirements. We have added improvements to upgrade this previously vacant and condemned building: the heating and air conditioning systems have been installed, the electric is completed and plumbing systems have been roughed in. New rubber roofs have been installed over the garage and rear addition and new sidewalks and driveways have been finished with built-in gutter drainage to the curb. Reconditioned French doors have been added on all three levels on the south side to maximize on the natural light. Every window on ground, first, second and third floors have been caulked, primed and repainted in a color approved by the Historic Commission (CHAP). Also worth a peek is a sky light above the central staircase. One hundred feet of cornice has been reconstructed and the top two feet of brickwork has been relayed. Some 100 window sashes have been reconditioned. The front columns have been re-cast and painted and are now protected by a rubber roof. The plaster work around the light fixture in the foyer has been repaired and restored. There's a new mantle and an antique Latrobe coal stove in the great room on the first floor. The floors have been sanded and refinished.

Also noteworthy – SoWeBo Arts, Inc., uses 100 S. Stricker as their home of record and you are welcome to inquire about this wonderful arts community. Today we invite you to browse and enjoy SoWeBo Art-Mart. Items are available for purchase.

Debbie & Bill

THE ADLER GALLERY

SoWeBo Artists Art Mart

Artists Mart

The Adler Gallery is sponsoring the second annual Sowebo Artists Art Mart during this year's Union Square Cookie Tour.

The Adler Gallery will have artists selling their art during the day. Excellent holiday shopping opportunity!

Adler Gallery

100 S. Stricker

Sunday, Dec 11, Noon-5pm

Participants so far:

Carole Jean Bertsch: jewelry, prints

Laddie Waters: Christmas cards, paintings

Betsey Waters: holiday planted pots and arrangements

Catherine Waters: photographs, drawings

Dan Van Allen: paintings

Spoon Popkin: paintings

Cheryl Terrell: artwork

Tita Rutledge: handmade dolls, Christmas ornaments, artwork



29 SOUTH STRICKER ST

Betsy Nix & Andy Imparato

Betsy and Andy looked at dozens of Victorian houses in Baltimore City before discovering Union Square in the year 2000. They were immediately taken with the beautiful park, the friendly neighbors and this house in particular. The previous owner had removed the rear staircase and created an open floor plan which made the first floor perfect for the children of the family. The seller was still in the process of renovating when Betsy and Andy bought the house, and they, with the help of diligent family members, have continued the process at a slower pace. Their effort in the last few years have focused on abating lead paint or encapsulating it: they replaced aging window sashes and did lots of priming and painting. Betsy used Peel-Away to strip layers upon layers of paint from the tin ceiling in the dining room. When they are not working on the house, Andy, Betsy and their two sons have enjoyed participating in the many family activities the neighborhood offers: a Halloween party, pot-luck dinners in the park, and the SoWeBo festival.

By moving to Union Square Andy has reduced his daily commute to Washington, D.C. to an hour each way; he makes a five-minute drive each morning, parks for free at the West Baltimore Station and takes the MARC train. They have all come to love the convenience of and sense of community in Union Square.

OATMEAL FROSTIES

1 cup margarine, softened
2 cups flour
1 cup confectioner's sugar
1½ cups quick oats
1 tsp. vanilla

Cream margarine and confectioner's sugar. Beat in vanilla. Add remaining ingredients and mix well. Shape into 1-inch balls. Bake on ungreased cookie sheet at 350 degrees for 13 to 15 minutes until browned on the bottom. Roll in confectioner's sugar while hot and again when cooled. Makes 3½ dozen.



27 SOUTH STRICKER ST

Debra and Francis Rahl

Originally built in 1857 as a single-family dwelling, the Rahl home had been divided into three and then six apartments over the years. The Rahl's purchased the building 25 years ago and have been working ever since to reflect period tastes and modern needs, and to display their growing art collection.

The first floor includes an ornately decorated entry foyer, traditional parlor, and dining room. The parlor is furnished in period Eastlake style. A portrait of Mrs. Rahl, by James Voshell, is reflected in one of two exceptional mirrors. Mr. Rahl is portrayed in an oil sketch by Mark Adams. A bronze sculpture by Louise Peterson is displayed on the mantle.

The dining room was a "modernized" two-story area with a bridge and very simple features when the Rahl's purchased the house. They returned the room to single story, adding a bath, laundry and hall above. The dining room is now more formal with its faux mahogany wainscoting and built-in cabinetry, antique lighting, and accessories. Décor includes original works by Ginnie Saunders, Carol Jean Bertsch, Joan Erbe, and Louise Peterson.

The kitchen is almost redone, lacking only a new island. There are limited edition prints by Richard Roth and James Voshell, and several small paintings by Mark Adams. Mrs. Rahl's equestrian competition ribbons are temporarily on display in the kitchen, during construction of an adjoining breakfast room and powder room addition by Greg Senkus of Urban Craftsmen.

Upper floors include a guest bedroom with its "tin" ceiling rescued from a local demolition, and a guest bath. The master

bedroom is elaborately papered and is adjoined by the master bath with marble fireplace and antique accessories. The large family room on the top floor features significant additional artwork, a park view, and a view of the downtown Baltimore skyline.

BOB RAHL'S BLACK WALNUT COOKIES

1 cup butter, softened
1 cup white sugar
1 cup packed brown sugar
2 eggs
3 cups all-purpose flour
½ teaspoon baking soda
1 teaspoon salt
1 cup chopped black walnuts

1. In a large bowl, cream butter, white sugar, and brown sugar. Add eggs and beat until smooth. Sift together flour, baking soda, and salt. Stir dry ingredients into the creamed mixture until well blended. Stir in walnuts last. Shape dough into logs about 2 inches in diameter, wrap them in wax paper, and refrigerate until firm.
2. Preheat oven to 350 degrees F (175 degrees C).
3. Slice dough logs into ½ inch slices, and place on baking sheet. Bake in preheated oven for 8 to 10 minutes. Makes 4 dozen (24 servings).



ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Thank You

First, thanks to all of you, our visitors, for sharing with us. Your time, your kind words, and your monetary contributions are the reward for all our efforts.

This is our twentieth Christmas Cookie Tour. The committee is grateful to all the homeowners who opened their lovely homes for the viewing pleasure of our many guests. Some have put their homes on tour every year and are regular favorites. Others are on for the first time and are works in progress.

We thank the Union Square Association Board of Directors for ongoing support, Baltimore City Police Southern District for security, and our advertisers for their financial support.

Another local organization, Sowebo Arts, Inc., has been very supportive of the tour and is vital to the ongoing artistic character – not only of our neighborhood, but of the whole city. The Sowebo Artist Mart at 100 South Stricker St. is open on the day of the tour. Invited artists include: Carole Jean Bertsch, jewelry, prints; Laddie Waters, Christmas cards, paintings; Betsey Waters, holiday planted pots and arrangements; Catherine Waters, photographs, drawings; Dan Van Allen, paintings; Spoon Popkin, paintings; Cheryl Terrell, artwork; and Tita Rutledge, handmade dolls, Christmas ornaments, artwork.

Our gratitude to The Friends of the H. L. Mencken House for opening that historic home.

Thanks to the Neighborhood Design Center for the use of the restored “Old No. 2” Branch of the Library for Cookie Tour activities and for project and Association support all year.

Chris Everett keeps us visible, worldwide, by developing and maintaining our award-winning Union Square Online web site. Go to

www.union-square.us and see more about our community.

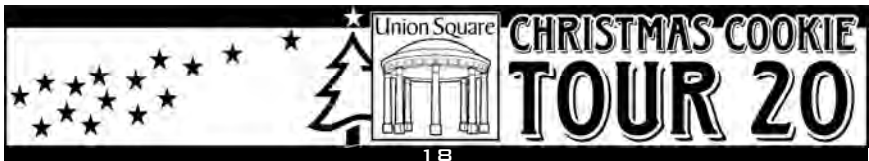
Thanks to all who helped by selling tickets, decorating, and in other ways too numerous to mention.

Much appreciation also goes to Bill Adler, Debbie Adler, Rick Aronhalt, Diane Asher, Will Brockman, Phil Hildebrandt, Ron Nativ, Tonya Osborne, Linda Pelletier, Debra Rahl, Fran Rahl, and Phyllis VanMeerhaeghe.

Very special mention must go to David Miller and his extraordinary efforts in getting the advertiser commitments you see in this program. Please support our advertisers as they have supported our community.

For anyone whose name was inadvertently missed, please forgive us and accept a very special THANK YOU! – you are our unsung hero!

We are also grateful for the support from The Sun – their generous backing provided crucial advertising and much-needed promotional material.



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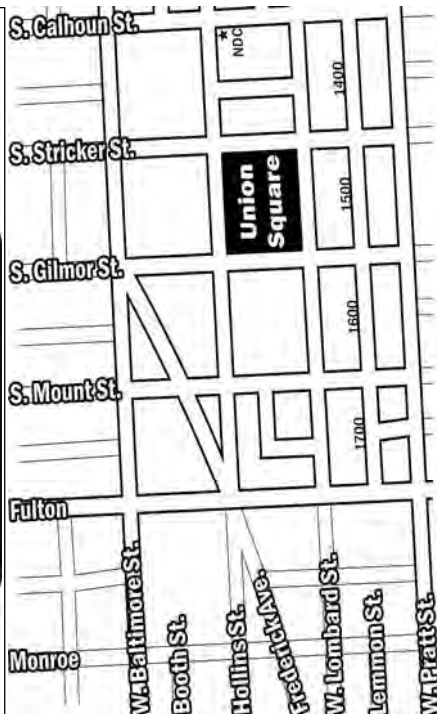
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