



UNION SQUARE ASSOCIATION **BALTIMORE**

NEWS AND NOTES FROM AROUND THE NEIGHBORHOOD **SEPT. 2016** WWW.UNIONSQUAREASSOCIATION.ORG



September Union Square Association Meeting

Monday, August 29, 2016, 7pm – 9pm
1401 Hollins Avenue. All are welcome.

Agenda:

- Business of the Month: Culinary Architecture
- Police Community Liaison
- 1500 Pratt Zoning
- Baltimore & Schroeder Street Lot
- Committee Updates
- Alley Cleanup Efforts
- Live Baltimore
- Union Square Appreciation
- New Business
- Adjourn



QUOTE OF THE MONTH

“Good catering makes the sharing of a meal the highlight of the workday.”

Leslie Dawson

CULINARY ARCHITECTURE IS OPEN FOR BUSINESS!!!

By

Kathy Filosi Nelson

When Sylva Lin was just five years old, her favorite place to play was under the big old spruce tree in her backyard. She would gather pine needles, pebbles and mud and concoct the most amazing gourmet delights. There, her imagination became the foundation for her culinary playground. Meanwhile, a little Piper Monk (now Piper Booher) was busy being creative, too -- writing and drawing and knowing someday she would find just the right outlet for her amazing talents. Well it happened, and together, these Union Square residents came up with Culinary Architecture! And what a happy union it is! This little, one-of-a-kind business brings you private and corporate catering, take-home meal components, and gourmet retail--all from its central location in Pigtown. Located at 767 Washington Blvd, Chef Sylva works with artisan and craft products from Baltimore to Bangkok. Everyday, customers can get homemade sandwiches, signature Aussie pies and scrumptious desserts. They can also select from delicious meal components from a weekly menu, to take home and make in their own kitchens. Once you visit Culinary Architecture, you'll be back again and again. And if you go in on a Saturday morning, make sure to get one of their epic "mile high" biscuits. So good! www.culinaryarchitecture.com. 443-708-8482

BLOOM YOUR BLOCK: SOWING PRIDE OF PLACE

*By
Kristina Samson*

When I moved to the neighborhood in 1999, the front of my house was just bare concrete. I did not start out with a plan or vision for a garden. I started small, with window boxes filled with geraniums and trailing ivy so I could see the flowers when I looked out at Union Square. Every year, I added a few more pots. Smaller pots were often stolen. So I started using bigger containers. Sometimes, whole plants were uprooted with a trail of loose soil disappearing down the block. So I began planting perennials like evergreens and shrubs into pots and found that you can grow nearly anything in a pot if it's the right size and exposure.

After a few years, there were just too many pots and though the plants were doing okay, they would be happier in the ground. So I built a giant plant box that sits on top of the concrete and filled it with soil. I transplanted all the plants that were in the pots into the box and that's how the front garden came to be. I've watched it flourish with regular watering, annual pruning, fertilizing, and mulching.

I could have let the plant thieves stop me, but then I would have let them extinguish my simple joy. Plants are a metaphor for growth and renewal, which is what we hope to achieve in our lives and in this city. I'm very happy that my neighbors around the square are now planting too!

Kristina is our new Bloom Your Block columnist. She won second place in this year's Bloom Your Block competition and led her block to second place as well.

SQUARE ROOTS: WHAT IS HISTORIC IS WORTH SAVING

*By
Daniel Rodenburg*

In Baltimore, in June 1864 a group of loyalists to Abraham Lincoln, the representative of the National Union Party, decided to change the party name to the Republican Party and ensure his reelection against the belief of many in his old party that considered Lincoln Incompetent. The new moniker was crafted to bring together the Unionists and the war Democrats and strengthen the "brand".

In Baltimore in July 1872 the Democratic National Convention became the shortest convention in its storied history. It lasted 48 hours. Its nominee Horace Greeley of N. Y. obviously he didn't win the presidency. Mr. Greeley was poised to accept Reconstruction against the democratic tide.

Both conventions took place in the same hall known as Fords "Grand Opera House" on East Fayette street between Howard and Eutaw streets. Mr. John T. Ford who built the hall also owned that other little known eponymous theatre in D.C.

Happy voting!

INTERESTED IN ADVERTISING WITH US?

The Union Square newsletter is running paid advertisements to offset costs and benefit community projects. If interested, please contact media@unionsquareassociation.org for rates. It's a great way to let people know about your company or special event while supporting the neighborhood! Ask about special rates for Union Square residents.

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR:
USA SECOND ANNUAL CRAB FEAST!
THIS SATURDAY, AUGUST 27TH 12NOON – 4PM**

*By
Kristen Johnson*

Event coordinators are shucking corn, getting the Old Bay ready, and hoping to see everyone out for some crabs and a good time. Please join us and bring your family and friends to Union Square Park to eat crabs and support the neighborhood. Besides crab and corn, there will be beer to purchase and baked goods. Last year the crab feast allowed friends and family to spend the day in our great park and share a meal together. Many commented on how great it is to have all sorts of events right in our park. This annual fundraiser allows us to provide the free concerts and movies as well as continued repairs and improvements to the park. Spread the word and see you on Saturday!

**CRIME AWARENESS:
A COMMUNITY EFFORT IN UNION SQUARE**

*By
Salvatore Seeley*

One of the things that continues to impress me in Union Square is the amount of concern that we have for each other and how involved community members are in our neighborhood. One of the ways that I have seen community members look out for each other is when a crime has occurred. Union Square residents have come together to support each other when there has been a problem.

One of the best ways for you to get involved right away is coming to a Union Square COP walk. These walks take place the second Monday of the month at 7:00pm. We walk around the neighborhood for about an hour with police officers to deter crimes of opportunity by reporting items that criminals consider attractive, such as vacant homes, dark alleys, etc. to the officers we walk with. In addition, officers help educate citizens on the appropriate way to handle certain situations.

These walks are important because by joining together in a group and learning to work together, the members of a Union Square learn to take responsibility for the health, well-being, and safety of the neighborhood. Through this ownership, you come to see the quality of life of everyone in your neighborhood as important to you. This forms bonds of community and friendship that you rarely see outside neighborhoods without a walk or neighborhood watch.

One of the newest strategies of community crime prevention is to install a web/security cam overlooking the front and back of your house. Web cams have become cheaper and there are apps associated with these cams so you can monitor your house when your away. Some of them will even send alerts if there is motion within a designated zone. The more cameras we have in Union Square, the more we are able to build a network of crime watchers.

We strive to bring together local officials, law enforcement, and our neighbors for the protection of our community. We are dedicated to keeping our neighborhood safe and beautiful. Let's all work together to eliminate crime in Union Square.

Some of the things you can easily do right now:

Call 911 if you see anything suspicious – not 311

Crime prevention can be as simple as turning on your outside light or putting a light on a timer in your home

Don't leave anything in your car for others to see

Before you exit your car – be aware of your surroundings

The next COP walk will be held on September 12 at 7:00pm. We meet at the corner of West Lombard and Stricker.

Sal is a new columnist with the newsletter. He leads the COP walk and head the "Clean and Green" efforts in the park and around the neighborhood.

CULINARY ARCHITECTURE

By
Chef Sylva Lin

You scream, I scream, we all scream for ice cream.... What? What? Did someone say ice cream sandwiches! There is nothing more refreshing on a 90° hot summer day than a cold, crunchy, sweet and delicious ice cream sandwich. Here are a few ideas to make these delicious treats at home.

Start with your favorite brand of ice cream, or if you are feeling adventurous and have your own equipment you can make the ice cream too! The cookie will be the base for the sandwich. A pliable soft cookie is best to hold the ice cream when it is being devoured. Here are a few ideas for the dog days of summer.

Coconut and Almond Ice Cream Sandwiches

This marries two kinds of homemade cookie -- chocolate and chocolate-chocolate chunk -- paired with store-bought coconut ice cream or sorbet and finished with a spectacular edging of candied almonds or toasted coconut.

Mini Chocolate Chip Ice Cream Sandwiches

Layer mini chocolate chip cookies with store-bought vanilla ice cream and roll them in mini chocolate chips for an extra flourish. Bet you can't eat just one!

Walnut Dacquoises with Honey-Walnut Ice Cream

A French nut meringue cookie makes for a sophisticated and delicious dessert sandwich when paired with homemade walnut ice cream and honeyed apple compote. It's also really good without the fruit.

Gingersnap Ice Cream Sandwiches

Chewy, spicy gingersnap cookies are the perfect vehicle for store-bought butter-pecan ice cream. We also like them with salted caramel and plain old vanilla.

Chocolate Chip Cookie Ice Cream Sandwiches

Layers of ganache and vanilla ice cream studded with chocolate chip cookie dough are sandwiched between chocolate chip cookies in this over-the-top dessert.

Strawberry-Chocolate Ice Cream Sandwiches

Chewy chocolate cookies and creamy strawberry ice cream are a match made in frosty dessert heaven.



BEYOND THE SQUARE: SOUTHWEST PARTNERSHIP

By
Khandra Sears



The Southwest Partnership committees have been working steadily towards key goals this year. As you will read, we've been pretty busy!

Housing (Chair - Jamie Pitts)

- Selected a developer for the housing rehabilitation projects in Franklin Square and Mount Clare.

Public Safety (Chair - JR Lee)

- Held a Bike Rodeo on July 17th to teach kids bike safety and make sure that they understood proper safety. 25 kids participated and received a certificate and free bike helmets from Bikemore.
- Mapping alleys for gating to create defensible spaces.
- Starting a Community In Control initiative to control crime and grime in the community with the use of cameras to identify problem areas.

Historic Preservation (Chair - Scott Kashnow):

- Funding applications submitted for historical signage projects
- Encouraging community to come out for the demolition hearing scheduled for the house on W Baltimore and Schroeder in October.
- Planning a series of events to collect historical information and stories from neighbors through video, audio, photos, and digitizing photographs.

Education and Workforce Development (Chair - Lisa Rawlings)

- Partnered with UMB Office of Community Engagement for a YouthWorks program based at the Community Engagement Center (CEC); 13 students worked on neighborhood initiated projects many want to continue to work on community project.
- Southwest Works, a subgroup of this committee, secured funding from the Local Development Council for the Casino Impact Area so that SWP can partner with the Mayor's Office of Employment Development (MOED) to have a MOED employee working full time in the SWP area. They will be in our communities 3 days a week at the CEC, SWP, and Clay Pots.
- Received support from the LDC for attendance monitor program for the three schools in Pigtown. The program is run by Public Allies out of the UMB School of Social Work and will hire community members who have been identified by the schools.
- Three days of service were completed at James McHenry, Franklin Square and Steuart Hill Schools with a total of about 50 volunteers.
- Partnering with LeaderComm to train community members in organizing around schools. First workshop was Saturday August 20th 9-12 at SW Baltimore Charter School 1300 Herkimer St. More to follow.

Information about SWP meeting times and activities can be found at www.southwestpartnershipbaltimore.org

GET INVOLVED!

Want an easy way to get involved with the neighborhood that still has an impact? As we get ready for the busy fall & winter seasons, we're planning how to promote Union Square's events as well as the wider Southwest Baltimore community—and we're going to need help with social media and email! If you have a smartphone or a social media account, please reach out to media@unionsquareassociation.org about joining the social media & web committee!

AS I SEE IT! SOWEBO FESTIVAL WAS A GREAT SUCCESS AGAIN!

By
Roger Miller



AROUND THE SQUARE

By
Bif Browning

Union Square has had an extra wet and hot Baltimore summer this year. This has been hard on us, but wonderful for the plants and nowhere was it more evident than during the 6th annual “Bloom Your Block” judging in June. This year’s winners individually and by block were: 1st place: Windy Blount and the 1300 block of Lombard. 2nd place: Tina and Leigh Samson and the 1300 block of Hollins. 3rd place: Tie - Stephanie Bowe/Chris and Erica Martin and the 1500 block of Lombard. Everyone’s hard work was appreciated and the delicious homemade pies and community picnic after the judging were a great time for all. Thank you to Andrea Leahy and our judges: Fraser Smith - WYPR, Caitlin Doolin - Bicycle Pedestrian Coordinator for Baltimore City DoT, and Richard Parker - President of the Southwest Partnership.

The return of USA Day in July saw the park alive with the food, flags, and cultural mementos of the people who call Union Square home. It was a chance for us all to share our stories and to learn more about the customs and cultures of our neighbors. I would like to thank everyone who prepared a dish and our neighbors Kidist Belete, Kruti Ravaliya and Nootana for sharing dance and musical performances; and a special thanks to Khandra Sears for organizing this.

The 2nd Annual Union Square Crab Feast Fundraiser will be this Saturday, August 27th from noon – 4pm. Be sure to come out and enjoy good food for a good cause and thank Darren Williams and Michael Johnson for keeping this new tradition going.

Our “Sunday Sounds in the Park” concert series will be from 5-7pm this Sunday, August 28th. This month’s show will feature two outstanding acts. The opening act will be Nellie Clay, www.nellieclaymusic.com, an Oklahoma born songwriter who recently moved from Alaska and now calls Nashville home. The closing act is Megan Jean & The KFB, www.meganjean.net, a husband and wife duo from Charleston, South Carolina. This promises to be another memorable show in what has been an incredible concert season.

On a final note, I want to thank Joe and Gail Allen for their tireless efforts in our neighborhood (the fountain looks wonderful because of them). They will be leaving us soon and a little piece of our community will go with them. We wish them the best and hope they will come back to see us often. I hope to see you all at the neighborhood meeting on Monday, August 29th at 7pm in 1401 Hollins Street.

MEET THE NEIGHBORS: AISH, RAN AND ADITI

By
Lucy Steinitz



Iswarya (Aish) Gopalakrishnan, husband Ram Baalachandran (Ram) and daughter Aditi (2 1/2 years) are a joyful family who originate from Tamil Nadu in southeast India, and recently moved to Union Square. "We almost moved to the Baltimore suburbs but after we visited here we decided that we really like the community feeling of Union Square," Ram explained. "We have already participated in many neighborhood activities and we know we made the right choice." Prior to Baltimore, the family lived in Tucson, Arizona while Ram completed his medical residency. "Tucson was beautiful, but we never knew our neighbors," Aish explained. "Here we have already made friends and everything is close and convenient."

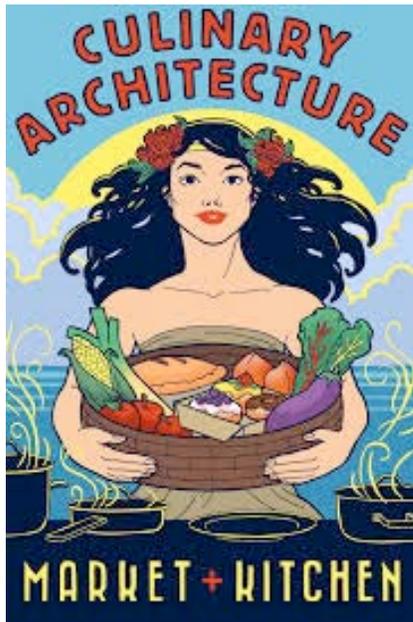
Currently, Ram is working on a three-year fellowship in pulmonary critical care at the University of Maryland Hospital System. He jokes that he would like to get to know everyone in the neighborhood – but not during working hours. Aish, who is an engineer specializing in operational risk management within the banking industry, will soon be seeking employment. For recreation, Aish and Ram enjoy movies, walking in nature and when she has time, Aish also paints and makes crafts.



CALL FOR SOCIAL MEDIA HELP

Are you on your phone all the time for email and social media? Please consider joining the Union Square's social media committee and helping us grow the conversation in Southwest Baltimore. We always need community support with posts, eblasts, blogging, and other online communications! Email media@unionsquareassociation.org and to join the team and get involved.

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PLEASE NOTE - DUE TO PROGRAMMING ISSUES, WE WERE NOT ABLE TO RUN OUR ADVERTISERS FULL AD. NEXT MONTH YOU WILL SEE THEM IN ALL THEIR FULL GLORY! - *EDITOR*