



# UNION SQUARE ASSOCIATION BALTIMORE

## March 5 Meeting Agenda:

Business of Month: St. Peter's Adult Learning Center  
Steuart Hill Directory/Talent Bank Update (see insert)  
Recreation & Parks - Comfort Station Update/Issues  
Department of Transportation Updates/Issues  
UMB/SWP House Tour (3/25)  
Pigtown Farmer's Market  
Committee Announcements

7pm, Enoch Pratt #2 Library Building, 1401 Hollins Street

## **Union Square Association Board Members**

### **President**

Bif Browning

### **Vice President**

Khandra Sears

### **Treasurer**

Mary Sieling

### **Recording Secretary**

Christine Verdin

### **Corresponding Secretary**

Adam Moyer

### **CHAP Officer**

Dan Rodenburg

### **At-Large Members:**

Donnell Nance (Events),  
Salvatore Seeley  
(Greening), Michael  
Johnson (Neighborhood  
Engagement), Mark Moyer  
(Families), Andrea Coccia-  
Mickens (Streetscape),  
Gabriel Auteri (External  
Engagement), Patty Hogan  
(Public Safety), Linda  
Callahan (Youth/School  
Liaison), Ivan Leshinsky  
(Sports & Fitness)

## **Around the Square** *Bif Browning*

Spring is finally arriving and the daffodils are starting to popup in the Park. Just like these beautiful flowers, you may soon start to see real estate agents and their clients popping up all around Union Square. The University of Maryland - Baltimore has a new "Live Near Your Work" incentive that will provide \$18,000 to its employees toward the purchase of a home in the seven Southwest Partnership neighborhoods. The University and the Southwest Partnership are holding a housing fair for this program on Sunday, March 25<sup>th</sup>. Interested employees will be touring the neighborhoods and viewing properties for sale from 1-4pm that day. Our historic district with its spacious homes and beautiful park square will attract a lot of attention. Visitors will quickly figure out Union Square is a one of a kind neighborhood where community is a way of life and the warmth, hospitality, and diversity of our inhabitants make it a special place. If you are out and about in the park or in front of your house that day and you see someone new, please say hello; tell them about Bloom Your Block, Cookie Tour, Progressive Dinner, and the Crab Feast; invite them to come out to hear great music at Sunday Sounds in the Park, the Union Square Chamber Music Society, and the SoWeBo Music Series; and let them know why you love it here. I thank you for your dedication and commitment to our neighborhood, and for all the hard work and creativity that continues to move us forward year after year.

### **Interested in advertising with us?**

*The Union Square newsletter is running paid advertisements to offset costs .  
If interested, please contact  
media@unionsquareassociation.com  
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 residents of  
Union Square.*

*Image of Union Square from the Comfort Station by Hans Marx, The Sun Papers, 1955*

## **Southwest Partnership: February 2018**

*Khandra Sears*



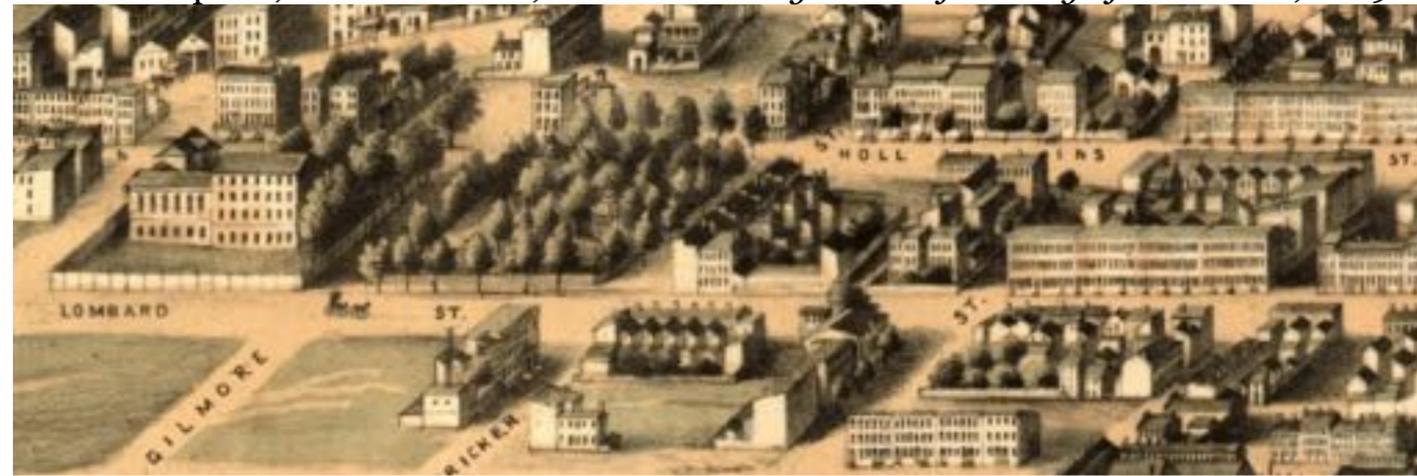
The Southwest Partnership is now accepting applications for its Small Neighborhood Grants. Associations and block groups within the SWP area can apply for up to \$5000 for projects that reduce and prevent blight, increase vibrancy and positive use of streets and public spaces, increase the quality of life for area residents or increase community engagement and participation in community projects. The application deadline is April 1 and grants will be awarded May 2. Projects must be completed by May 2, 2019. There will be a second cycle in the fall when applications will be accepted from July 1 to September 1. The SWP can serve as a fiscal sponsor for groups that do not have an organizational bank account. You can find more information by visiting [www.southwestpartnershipbaltimore.org/project/small-neighborhood-grants-available](http://www.southwestpartnershipbaltimore.org/project/small-neighborhood-grants-available).

At the February board meeting we voted to support the Complete Streets Legislation introduced by Councilman Ryan Dorsey. This ordinance addresses the transportation disparities in the city and aims to make streets safer and more accessible to pedestrians, cyclists and public transit users. You can learn more about this legislation at [www.baltimorecompletestreets.com](http://www.baltimorecompletestreets.com).

Next up on the SWP calendar is a housing fair that we are co-hosting through our Housing Committee with the University of Maryland and local realtors. The event will take place at BioPark II at 801 W. Baltimore St and will be held from 10am-1pm on March 25. They will be targeting UMB employees and highlighting the university's improved Live Near Your Work Program, which provides \$18,500 towards the purchase of a home in Union Square and the Southwest Partnership neighborhoods. Attendees will take tours through the seven neighborhoods and stop off at open houses in them. If you know anyone considering selling their property, have them contact Michael Seipp at [michael@swpbal.org](mailto:michael@swpbal.org). If you would like to help out at the Union Square Association table that day just let me know. You can also help out by cleaning your stoop and sidewalk that day so our neighborhood looks its best when tour buses come through.

For SWP related issues contact me at [president@swpbal.org](mailto:president@swpbal.org).

Union Square, from *E. Sachse, & Co.'s bird's eye view of the city of Baltimore, 1869*



### ***Our Old Neighborhood***

*Aleksandras Radžius*

We all know that our neighborhood is old, that it goes back to about the era of the War Between the States\*.

We can always go to City Hall and find out when our house was built. But the neighborhood is full of hints of its antiquity. We just have to notice them.

Many of our sidewalk curbs have granite curbs. When was the last time you saw Baltimore City lay out a sidewalk with granite curbs? I've never seen it and I've seen many sidewalks constructed since 1950. And, then, how about the marble upping stone in front 1504 Hollins. It sports iron hitching rings on each side of the upping stone. Back then, the upping stone was used to help passengers get out and into horse draw carriages. This upping stone has a hitching ring on each side for hitching horses. Then, there are iron hitching rings mounted in the granite curbs in front of 1526 Hollins and 33 S. Stricker. And in front of the Steuart Hill Elementary School, on the west side of Gilmore and about 20 feet north of Lombard is a hole in the granite curb which is just the right size to suggest a hitching ring had been there.

Then there are the multiple garages belonging to 100 S. Stricker, 1500 and 1532 Hollins. Surely, they were meant to house horse draw carriages way before cars appeared on Baltimore's streets.

And inside our houses, there are hints also. In my house the foundation is made of undressed field stones and I have a copper fixture coming out of a wall for gas lighting - inactive now, of course.

What other hints of antiquity might there be on the street or inside our houses?

The more details we notice, the more we'll appreciate where we live. And the more we appreciate where we live, the greater will be the warm and fuzzy feeling we'll have for Union Square. And who doesn't want to have as many warm and fuzzy feelings as possible? Who?

\* A civil war is when two groups fight for control of the government. The South never wanted to rule in Washington DC. Thus, to call our 1861-1865 conflict a civil war is wrong. Further, Congress decreed that the correct name is 'War Between the States' - Joint Resolution No. 41, Congressional Record, March 2, 1929, page 196. Google 'War Between the States'.

## **Union Square Family Corner**

*Erin Moyer and Lucy Housseini*

Hi families! Have you joined our Facebook Page “Union Square Families”? It’s a great way to connect with other neighborhood families and organize informal get-togethers. If you are interested in connecting for a playdate, are headed to the park or playground or if you would like to host a family event, please feel free to post on the page. Spread the word!

Please stay tuned for information regarding the Union Square Egg Hunt at the end of the month! Here are some family friendly events going on in the southwest area and beyond:

### **Southwest Baltimore Moms’ Happy Hour**

March 29<sup>th</sup>, 7pm at Zellas

### **Union Square Easter Egg Hunt**

March 31<sup>st</sup>, 1-4pm at Union Square

### **Washington Village Library**

Storytime Wednesdays 10am

“Reed to Reef” program is back! Pick up your bookmarks in March to enjoy free admission to the aquarium once your child has completed their bookmark. The program are for children 5th grade and under! Take advantage of a free pass to the National Aquarium.

### **B&O Railroad Museum**

March 6<sup>th</sup> is Thrifty Thursday from 10-4. Half-price admission!

As more events for the month pop-up that are family friendly we will post them on our FB page. Thanks to those who have joined our group already. It is a great way to stay connected and to be in the know of great things happening in our area.

### **Saturday Park Clean-Ups!**

*Salvatore Seeley*

Our park is the heart of the community. We need community members to take an active role to keep it clean and maintained. We need volunteers who can help: weed, rake, pick up trash and plant. Please join us for our first clean-up of the season on March 10th at 9:00am. We meet in the park. Bring a pair of gloves. For more information, please call or email

Salvatore: [SalvatoreSeeley@aol.com](mailto:SalvatoreSeeley@aol.com) or [302-270-5503](tel:302-270-5503)

## **Special, One-Time Only Artist Talk:**

Saturday  
April 7  
4-6 pm

1800  
Washington  
Boulevard

At the Montgomery Park (Washington & Monroe), Noelle will present her yet unpublished book “My Life in 40 Portraits: Through Darkness Into Light.” Along with her 40 paintings, Noelle will share personal, familial, and ancestral stories that exemplify her pioneering style of fusing image-making & memoir-writing into one single healing practice.



## **My Life in 40 Portraits Through Darkness Into Light**

An Artist Talk by  
**Noelle Imperato**

**RSVP: [noelleimparato@gmail.com](mailto:noelleimparato@gmail.com)**

## Health and Safety Recommendations

Patty Hogan

- As the weather warms up, increase your time outdoors by taking short walks around the neighborhood. Say hello, and make a new friend.
- Increase your intake of fresh produce by picking up a \$7 bag of fruits and vegetables at the CEC on Mondays from 2:30 – 5:30 p.m. Stay for yoga at 5:45 p.m.
- Consider joining the Pigtown Farmers Market CSA. Available for pickup at Carroll Park or Zella's during the summer.
- Walk with a dog or another person or use the **Companion App**.
- Carry a whistle or a boat air horn.
- If you are inside your house and hear a whistle/boat horn, look outside to determine if someone needs help. Call 911 immediately. Help if it is safe to do so.

## Website Resources

Did you know our website ([unionsquareassociation.org](http://unionsquareassociation.org)) makes it easy to find past newsletters, upcoming events, contact information for board members, and much more? It's a great spot to check for up-to-date information on what's happening in the area. Check out the Union Square Association Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/unionsquareassociation](http://www.facebook.com/unionsquareassociation). Visit [www.union-square.us](http://www.union-square.us) to learn more about the neighborhood. Additionally, there are other Facebook groups where you can meet neighbors and learn about upcoming events, such as "Union Square Baltimore", "Union Square Baltimore Open Group", "What's On SoWeBo", and "SoWeBo Music Series", and the NextDoor website where you can learn about issues affecting Union Square and nearby neighborhoods. All of these sites can serve as good supplements to the information that you'll find in the monthly newsletter and the weekly email, which you can get by signing up at our website if you don't already receive it!



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## Upcoming Events

- 3/5:** Union Square Association Meeting
- 3/10:** Union Square Chamber Music Society  
([unionsquarecems@gmail.com](mailto:unionsquarecems@gmail.com))
- 3/25:** SWP/UMB Housing Fair and Tour of Neighborhoods
- 3/26:** USA Board Meeting (7pm, Enoch Pratt #2 Library Building, 1401 Hollins St.)
- 3/31:** Union Square Egg Hunt
- 4/6 to 4/8:** Light City's Neighborhood Lights in Hollins Market and Pigtown (installation by architects and Union Square residents David Nail and Karen Lemmert)
- 4/7:** Artist Talk by Noelle Imparato - more info inside!
- 4/21:** Women's Self-Defense Class

## 2018 Sunday Sounds In The Park Concerts

- 4/29 Kristen Toedtman [www.kristentoedtman.com](http://www.kristentoedtman.com)
- 6/24 The Royal Wigs [www.facebook.com/TheRoyalWigs/](http://www.facebook.com/TheRoyalWigs/)
- 7/29 Hot Club of Baltimore <https://ultrafaux.net/>
- 8/26 Amelia White <http://www.ameliawhite.com/>
- 9/30 Caleb Stine [www.calebstine.com](http://www.calebstine.com)
- 10/28 Stewbone [www.stewbone.com/](http://www.stewbone.com/)

All shows 4-7pm in Union Square Park

## Current Union Square Real Estate for Sale

- 1400 W. Lombard St. (\$249,000); 1307 Hollins St. (\$195,000);
- 1411 W. Lombard St. (\$155,000); 1620 Hollins St. (\$20,800);
- 1617 Frederick Ave. (\$200,000); 1521 Lemmon St. (\$57,500);
- 102 S. Mount St. (\$70,000); 1727 W. Lombard St. (\$169,900);
- 41 S. Fulton Ave. (\$265,000)

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