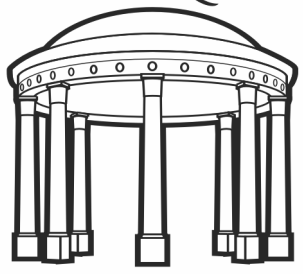


UNION SQUARE NEWS

Union Square Online: <http://www.union-square.us> • news@union-square.us

Union Square Association, Inc. • Post Office Box 20520 • Baltimore, Maryland 21225

Union Square



March 2007

Message from the President

By **Christopher Taylor**
President Union Square Association

Greetings!

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the people that attended the last meeting and made it such a success. Many of you have volunteered to participate in our various committees. A special thanks to our committee leaders who have stepped up to help move us forward—**Kimberly Crichlow** for marketing, **Richard Pickens** for park, **Sheila Lee** for housing, **Sabriyah Hassan** for sanitation, and **Zarva Taru**, who is heading our exploratory committee that will decide if we should pursue membership in the *Healthy Neighborhood Initiative*. There is still plenty of room for volunteers to help make these committees a success. Please come to the meetings, contact the committee heads directly, or as always, I can be reached at 443-415-0554.

Union Square is the best neighborhood in all of Baltimore. If you attended Friday night's social, you would know why, amongst many other reasons, that I can make this statement without hesitation. Our gracious neighbors, **Andelson Merisca** and **Jocelyn Bryan**, hosted a fabulous social. I haven't laughed that hard in a long time. The sense of community we are building in Union Square was evident throughout the night. It was great to be able to walk across the street into a house full of genuinely good people and know that these neighbors and their energy are the cornerstones of our future. This is the passion we must harness to create the neighborhood that we all envision. In this spirit, I implore you to promote Union Square—speak positively and don't allow people to undermine our neighborhood. This is the place we call home. This is where we seek solace at the end of a long day. I am asking each of you to think about this. Think about what that means to you and find a way to contribute to our neighborhood. Join a committee, start a new committee, come to the socials, attend the meetings—promote

Union Square Association

General Meeting

Wednesday, March 7, 2007
7:00 PM • 1401 Hollins St.

the neighborhood in any way you know how and we will all benefit. The socials always represent the highest ideals of city life—living in a community where you know your neighbors, who you can turn to for advice, help, or companionship, where there's always a good meal or a bottle of wine

to share, where kids are valued and respected, and where you can build relationships that are the backbone of any place that strives to be a community. We have turned the corner; there is no going back. This is Union Square and I, for one, am proud to live here.

How did you discover Union Square?

Compiled by **Kimberly Crichlow**

■ **K.C.:** I first discovered Union Square late one night by accident. I was trying to shortcut through the city and happened upon **the Square**. It was holiday time and **the place was lit up with pretty lights and twinkling**. I could not understand how I had lived in the city for the last 7 years and not have known about the area. I assumed that I could not afford to live downtown and I forgot all about it. Two years later, while looking for my first house, I stumbled upon a home that I loved right here in Union Square.

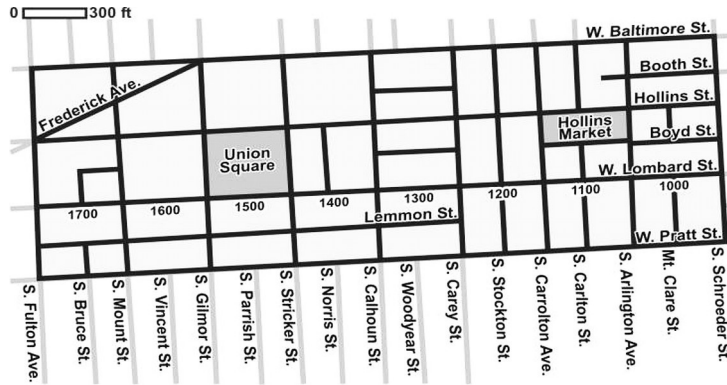
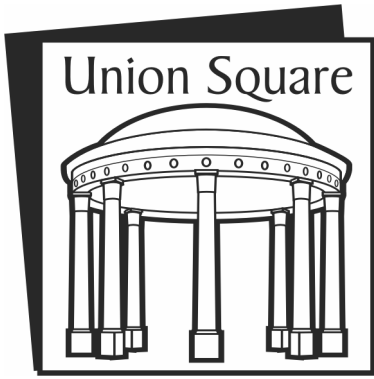
■ **Babette Leshinsky:** My husband and I discovered Union Square by pure chance. A real estate agent had just shown us properties in Pigtown and then she took us to see the property on 1428 Hollins Street. Although the house had been left in a run-down condition, **I just fell in love with it**. I was so impressed with all the houses around Union Square and **the amazing view** we had of downtown Baltimore. We signed a contract in March 2005 and we moved to our new residence in August 2006.

■ **C.K.:** I truly discovered Union Square about a month before I bought my house. **I really liked the housing stock... they were big and grand**. I saw one that needed work but seemed to have endless possibilities. I brought my friends to help me decide if this was the place for me. The house that seemed to have endless possibilities also seemed to need way too much work. I nearly wanted cry. To take a break, we walked to **Hollins Market** to have lunch. The only place we could sit down was a tiny restaurant, **The Bistro...** we were willing to try it. It turned out to be the best lunch we had in a long time. It also turned out to be one of the deciding factors. If a little place like that could find its way to this area, then so could I. Within days of making the decision, I also found the website, **Union Square Online...** I found all these amazing and talented people, willing and wanting to talk to each and make this area a community. After I moved in, I found the **Newsletter** in my door and went to my first **Association Meeting**. I found more people there talking about how to make this neighborhood a better place. I knew then I'd truly discovered Union Square and my home.

■ **Chris Everett:** I saw an ad for large homes (at low prices) in

Spring Social

The next Union Square Social is Friday, March 23rd in the home of Sylva and Bif at 1419 Hollins St. starting at 7pm.



Visit Union Square Online

To learn more about Union Square, go to the web site. *Union Square Online* is www.union-square.us

While information from many neighborhood groups appears on the web site, *Union Square Online* is not (and has never been) owned by, controlled by, or monetized by any of those organizations.

Real Estate Opportunities

- \$1,350,000 1420 W BALTIMORE
BR 0 BA 0 1/2BA 0
- \$750,000 1008 HOLLINS
BR 1 BA 1 1/2BA 0
- \$479,800 1301 W BALTIMORE
BR 0 BA 0 1/2BA 0
- \$349,900 1511 W LOMBARD
BR 4 BA 4 1/2BA 0
- \$329,000 1719 HOLLINS
BR 0 BA 0 1/2BA 0
- \$325,000 1612 W PRATT
BR 3 BA 2 1/2BA 1
- \$323,900 120 S SCHROEDER
BR 3 BA 2 1/2BA 0
- \$315,000 13 S CALHOUN
BR 3 BA 2 1/2BA 0
- \$310,000 1038 HOLLINS
BR 4 BA 2 1/2BA 0
- \$305,000 1000 HOLLINS
BR 3 BA 2 1/2BA 1
- \$299,900 1610 W PRATT
BR 3 BA 2 1/2BA 1
- \$299,900 1327 HOLLINS
BR 4 BA 3 1/2BA 0
- \$299,000 1521 W PRATT
BR 3 BA 2 1/2BA 1
- \$279,000 1318 W LOMBARD
BR 3 BA 3 1/2BA 1
- \$279,000 126 S MOUNT
BR 4 BA 2 1/2BA 0
- \$275,000 1139 W LOMBARD
BR 3 BA 3 1/2BA 0
- \$274,900 1103 W LOMBARD
BR 2 BA 3 1/2BA 0
- \$269,900 1148 W LOMBARD
BR 4 BA 2 1/2BA 0
- \$264,900 1108 W PRATT
BR 2 BA 2 1/2BA 0
- \$264,900 1014 W PRATT
BR 3 BA 1 1/2BA 1
- \$259,900 1022 W LOMBARD
BR 5 BA 2 1/2BA 0
- \$258,000 1422 W PRATT
BR 4 BA 1 1/2BA 1
- \$255,000 1402 W BALTIMORE
BR 0 BA 0 1/2BA 0
- \$250,000 1316 W BALTIMORE
BR 0 BA 0 1/2BA 0
- \$249,900 107 S FULTON
BR 5 BA 2 1/2BA 1
- \$249,900 1336 W LOMBARD
BR 3 BA 2 1/2BA 1
- \$249,900 1328 W LOMBARD
BR 3 BA 3 1/2BA 1
- \$249,000 1314 W PRATT
BR 4 BA 2 1/2BA 0
- \$239,000 130 S SCHROEDER
BR 3 BA 1 1/2BA 0
- \$237,900 1705 HOLLINS
BR 3 BA 3 1/2BA 0
- \$236,000 1231 W LOMBARD
BR 3 BA 1 1/2BA 0
- \$229,000 1308 W LOMBARD
BR 0 BA 0 1/2BA 0
- \$225,000 1523 W PRATT
BR 4 BA 1 1/2BA 1
- \$225,000 1201 W LOMBARD
BR 0 BA 0 1/2BA 0
- \$210,000 1400 W LOMBARD
BR 4 BA 3 1/2BA 0
- \$199,500 118 S FULTON
BR 4 BA 2 1/2BA 0
- \$198,500 1110 W LOMBARD
BR 3 BA 1 1/2BA 0
- \$194,900 1012 W LOMBARD
BR 3 BA 2 1/2BA 0
- \$189,900 1036 HOLLINS
BR 3 BA 2 1/2BA 1
- \$185,000 1402 W LOMBARD
BR 3 BA 2 1/2BA 0
- \$179,900 1003 W LOMBARD
BR 3 BA 1 1/2BA 0
- \$179,000 1326 W LOMBARD
BR 5 BA 4 1/2BA 0
- \$175,000 1300 HOLLINS
BR 7 BA 7 1/2BA 0
- \$167,500 1320 W PRATT
BR 2 BA 2 1/2BA 0
- \$163,000 113 S CALHOUN
BR 0 BA 0 1/2BA 0
- \$158,000 1204 W LOMBARD
BR 2 BA 1 1/2BA 0
- \$152,000 15 S ARLINGTON
BR 4 BA 2 1/2BA 0
- \$150,000 1423 W BALTIMORE
BR 0 BA 0 1/2BA 0
- \$130,000 45 S ARLINGTON
BR 5 BA 1 1/2BA 1
- \$125,000 1421 W BALTIMORE
BR 0 BA 0 1/2BA 0
- \$125,000 1020 W LOMBARD
BR 3 BA 1 1/2BA 0
- \$125,000 1004 W LOMBARD
BR 4 BA 1 1/2BA 0
- \$119,900 1127 HOLLINS
BR 3 BA 1 1/2BA 0
- \$119,900 1125 HOLLINS
BR 4 BA 1 1/2BA 0
- \$115,000 1233 W LOMBARD
BR 4 BA 1 1/2BA 0
- \$109,900 1608 W PRATT
BR 4 BA 1 1/2BA 0
- \$109,900 1314 W BALTIMORE
BR 3 BA 1 1/2BA 0
- \$100,000 121 S SCHROEDER
BR 4 BA 1 1/2BA 0
- \$100,000 1129 HOLLINS
BR 0 BA 0 1/2BA 0
- \$99,900 1104 W PRATT
BR 3 BA 1 1/2BA 0
- \$98,900 1731 W PRATT
BR 4 BA 1 1/2BA 0
- \$89,000 1002 W LOMBARD
BR 3 BA 1 1/2BA 0
- \$83,900 116 S FULTON
BR 4 BA 1 1/2BA 0
- \$79,900 1620 W BALTIMORE
BR 3 BA 1 1/2BA 0
- \$79,900 1024 W BOYD
BR 3 BA 1 1/2BA 0
- \$79,900 1622 W BALTIMORE
BR 4 BA 1 1/2BA 0
- \$39,900 107 S CAREY
BR 3 BA 1 1/2BA 0
- \$35,000 1209 W LOMBARD
BR 1 BA 1 1/2BA 0

How did you discover Union Square?

(continued)

the 1700 block of Hollins. I came down Fulton to look and then drove down Hollins to see more. Seeing **the park was a revelation!** Others have found the area from Lombard, but I discovered Union Square from the opposite direction. I found a realtor familiar with the community and he told me about **the history and personalities** of the neighborhood. I met the **diverse and dedicated people** in the Union Square Association and, in July of 1993, I bought my house. Since then, I've watched the neighborhood just keep getting better. My favorite part of living in Union Square is still the great residents. What a fascinating group we are!

■ **Debby Rahl:** My husband and I discovered Union Square quite by accident. We were driving down Lombard Street one night, passed **the park**, and thought **it was lovely**. It turned out we had an appointment to look at a house on Gilmor Street the next day. We looked at that one, but the listing agent also wanted us to see a house on Stricker Street. When we walked in, **it was love at first sight**. We loved the house, we loved the fact it was across from the park. It was in serious need of renovation but, 27 years later, we have a house that is just wonderful.

■ **R&R:** We first discovered the neighborhood through a couple of friends who lived here (one of these friends is a former association president). Both encouraged us to look for a house in the neighborhood. When one came on the market, we fell in love and put in a contract the next day. **The neighbors are absolutely amazing.** Fifteen of them took us

out to dinner to introduce themselves before we even settled on the house. And they even stopped by on moving day with bottles of wine to welcome us to the community. In the hustle and bustle of city life, this type of community is a rare find. I look to spend the rest of my life here.

■ **C.S.L.:** I grew up in Cockeysville, but was never the suburban type. When I started dating, I met people from the city. Then I moved in with a friend here while I went to college. And *that* is how I discovered Union Square. My parents thought I lost my mind when I moved to the city. Now they brag to their friends about **the cool place** where I live.

■ **Tiff:** I used to go to punk-rock shows on Frederick Avenue. My boyfriend, Jay, lived on Stricker Street then... around the corner from where we now live on Lombard. We decided we wanted to buy a large older row home in Butchers Hill, (the side of town I'm originally from) but I did not realize how much property values increased. That is when we came over to Union Square to start looking. It has been a change, but **the location is great.** Very close to 83, 95, 295, and only a 10 to 15 minute drive to UMBC, where I attend school. This area has lots of potential, in addition to **the web site** and the other good qualities that already exist.

And now it's your turn...

How did you discover Union Square? What were your first impressions? Please write a brief paragraph to let us know. We will include your story in next month's newsletter. Forms will be available at the General Meeting.