

UNION SQUARE



2009! A new year brings new ideas from new board members

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FEBRUARY

Important Dates:

- Next General Meeting
Wednesday, February
4th at 7pm, 1401
Hollins St., Baltimore,
MD 21223

2009 Board Members

Christopher Taylor
President

Kim Crichlow
Vice President

Ivan Leshinsky
Treasurer

Megan Schulze
Recording Secretary

Jason Bass
Corresponding Secretary

Fran Rahl
*Director of Historic
Preservation*

Sylva Browning
Director at Large

David Cochran
Director at Large

Garage Storage

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Union Square

Call Bill Rubin at

410-339-6332

Bill.rubin@comcast.net

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Message from the President

By Chris Taylor taylfour@msn.com

Greetings and Happy New Year! I hope you will join me in welcoming our new members to the Union Square Association Board of 2009. We are lucky to have such a talented, diverse group to serve as the face of Union Square. Please remember that out of the 156 neighborhood associations in the 44th Legislative District we are one of the largest, and that it takes time and effort from all of us to maintain and enhance our neighborhood. The board spearheads our efforts and each board member spends a lot of his/her time working for free to serve Union Square. As you read each board member's introduction, consider carefully what they have to offer and join in one of the various efforts underway to improve our quality of life in Union Square. This is our year to capitalize on the strength of the foundation that we have built together over the last three years. Change can only begin when each one of us makes the commitment to be a part of the process and then translates that commitment into action. Start today by contacting one of our board members and dedicate just a few hours each month to enhancing your neighborhood. See you Wednesday night!

Kim Crichlow (Vice President):

As your new Union Square Association Vice President, it will be my role to step in when our President cannot be available or for some reason cannot fulfill his obligations. During my two year tenure, I have maintained a perfect attendance record in addition to all of my other contributions. I plan to continue chairing the Public Relations Committee. T-shirt sales have been very successful; therefore this project will be ongoing. We have a very dedicated

skeleton crew and we need a few more hands so that we can work through more than one project at a time. This year we hope to enhance our stellar branding to leverage the theory of "six degrees of separation" to its highest potential to help boost our neighborhood's progress.

Ivan Leshinsky (Treasurer):

Babette and I moved from Annapolis to Hollins Street in 2006, but we have lived a lot in big cities. After only a few months, we knew we picked a great neighborhood. It may have been the winter doldrums, finding a few hours to spare since the Ravens were out of the playoffs, or just looking to get more involved after the successful community mapping project last year. Whatever it was, I decided to fill an opening on the board to see if I could help impact some of the issues Union Square is struggling with including: housing vacancies, making the City more responsive to our needs, and being more strategic in using our financial resources to improve the neighborhood.

Megan Schulze (Recording Secretary):

As recording secretary, my goal is to continue making sure we have published agendas and voting lists at every meeting, as well as detailed minutes taken. This year, I would like to push our membership over 100 members (again) and get updated information from everyone for our email blasts and other forms of communication. Please remember that membership renews every January, so if you haven't renewed your membership (just \$5 and attendance at one meeting), please do so this month. Also, encourage your neighbors to come out as well.

Jason Bass (Corresponding Secretary):

My name is Jason Bass and I am your elected Corresponding Secretary. I am responsible for communications for the board and community. My objective is to continue a steady flow of communication as expected and make improvements where possible. The understanding is that information should be easily shared and accessible.

Fran Rahl (Director of Historic Preservation):

As your ongoing Director of Historic Preservation, I have the responsibility of looking after the historic appearance of the buildings. I have learned a great deal about the architecture of our neighborhood, most of which was built between 1847 and about 1890. At the moment, there is only one of me and I cannot give it my undivided attention. So this year I want to add some interested and sensitive persons to a committee to do the following: 1) work with contractors to help them make appropriate decisions; 2) detect and report unpermitted work; 3) interface with the City on preservation and building matters; 4) devise an inventory method to document current conditions; and, 5) publish architectural guidelines particular to our district, based on newly developed City guidelines. These are challenging tasks which must be done as evenhandedly as possible; but they are integral to bringing the neighborhood to its full potential.

Sylva Lin (Director at Large):

Hello Neighbors, I have been asked to write a short introductory paragraph to tell you a little bit about myself and my new "At Large" position on the board. I have a few specific goals for 2009 that I would like to bring to fruition. First, to start a community garden for Union Square. The garden would benefit those in need and the elderly in the neighborhood; as well as those who help work the garden. Second, I would like to begin cooking classes or a club if there is sufficient interest. In addition, help maintain the park with native Maryland plantings, regular weeding of the flower beds, and a campaign to keep Union Square free of garbage so that we can all enjoy the cornerstone of our neighborhood. I will also start to work with neighborhood socials and events. Please notify me of any newcomers to the neighborhood and I will prepare a small welcome basket from the association.

David Cochran (Director at Large):

I chose to run for a board member position because I felt that I had the ideas, time and desire to help make Union Square a better neighborhood.

tions in our neighborhood.

8:15-8:35 Rason Taru will give a presentation concerning a CHAP issue with his building on the 1400 block of Baltimore Street. He will seek a vote of approval for his plans from our membership.

This is a voting issue.

8:35-8:45 Chris Taylor will present a motion that we donate 500.00 dollars to the Southern Police District to use in undercover work. This is in addition to 500.00 dollars that the board of 2008 approved for donation to the Southern Police District.

This is a voting issue.

In addition to these funds we will be soliciting donations from our membership so that we can meet our goal of 3,000 dollars for the Southern Police District.

8:45-9:00 New Business and Board members will present information about the various efforts underway to improve Union Square

Save The Date! Cirque Du Soleil is coming to Baltimore!

Join Parks & People on March 13, 2009 for a benefit performance of Kooza, a fantastical adventure only Cirque Du Soleil could imagine. Tickets are \$125 with 100% of the proceeds benefitting Parks & People Foundation. This is a gift for loved ones and is a tax deductible donation!

When:
Friday, March 13, 2009

Where:
Under the Grand Chapiteau in Lot O next to the M & T Bank Stadium.

Contact:
Please reserve your tickets by calling Simone Martell at 410-448-5663, ext. 119 or email her at Simone.Martell@parksandpeople.org.

Agenda

7:00-7:10 Seating and Welcome

7:10-7:45 Delegate Keith E. Haynes will join us to discuss the Governor's Working Families and Small Business Health Care Coverage Act and hear from our membership about any other concerns.

7:45-8:15 Carroll Holland from Baltimore Behavioral Health will give a presentation concerning the new policies that BBH will implement throughout their opera-

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