



# UNION SQUARE

Neighborhood Newsletter

Volume One · Number Two

June 2003

## BUY A POSTER. SUPPORT SoWeBo ARTS.



*Laddie Waters*



*Cheryl Terrell*



*Joe Germershausen*

On June 8th, Union Square residents will turn out for the annual Poster Auction. This year, more than 50 local and regional artists have donated their original artwork for this exciting event. The posters are currently hanging at the Angelfall Studios, 2936 Remington Avenue, and the Charles Theater, 1711 N. Charles Street.

The auction will take place at the Corradetti Glass Studio at 1111

Hollins Street on June 8th. The preview runs from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. and the auction runs from 4:30 to 6 p.m. So mark your calendars and come out to the auction!

To view additional posters, visit <http://www.union-square.us> and link to the SoWeBo Arts Poster Auction website.

### ATTEND OUR NEXT GENERAL MEETING

Mr. Matt Gallagher from CityStat will be our Guest Speaker. If you have complaints, please be specific and present documentation, i.e., tracking numbers.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 4th at 7 p.m. at 1401 Hollins Streets. Join us and learn about the exciting things that are happening in our community.

### BALTIMORE ORIOLES TICKETS



Baltimore Orioles vs. The Milwaukee Brewers.

**Sat, 6/14/03**

Police Fundraiser Buddies Night.  
**\$13 per ticket.**

## Calendar of Events

### June 8<sup>th</sup> So WeBo Arts Poster Auction

Decorate your home and support SoWeBo arts.  
Preview: 3:30 - 4:30 p.m. Auction: 4:30 - 6 p.m.  
Location: Carradetti Glass Studio, 1111 Hollins St.

### June 23<sup>rd</sup> Union Square Book Club Monthly Meeting

Currently reading "B-More Careful," by Shannon Holmes.  
7:30 p.m. 1630 Hollins Street, Info: 410-233-8399.

## A NEW LOOK FOR THE PARK

Michael Jackson got one. Joan Rivers got one. Michael Jackson got another one. Now it's time that our park got a facelift, too. You may have noticed our volunteers removing some old shrubs from the square. They will be replaced with beautiful new beds.

We still need volunteers to help with the removal and replanting project. To volunteer, please see Greg Grass at our General Meeting on Wednesday, June 4<sup>th</sup>.

## UNION SQUARE SHINES AT HOME BUYERS FAIR



*Photo from last year's Home Buyers Fair. Over 1,400 people attended this year's event.*

On May 10<sup>th</sup>, Union Square participated in LiveBaltimore's Home Buyers Fair. With a booth at the event, members of our community met prospective home buyers and told of the wonderful community we are building in West Baltimore. Our booth, designed after a period living room invited attendees to stop for a cookie and talk about our neighborhood. Bus tours also took people through our neighborhood to show off its beauty.

## DON'T BE BUGGED

Summer is just around the corner, which means it's time for backyard fun and frolic. We all look forward to this time of the year, but so do all the tiny flying nuisance which normally send us running indoors for stinky sprays, or just some relief from the swarms. There might be a new weapon in this war to protect our backyards. The Mosquito Magnet®!

One of our neighbors was kind enough to pass on some information about this new piece of equipment, which claims that some models can drastically reduce the mosquito population in an area as large as an acre. If this claim is even half true, the investment would be worthwhile, since many of us are looking at our backyards as an exterior room.

The following is an excerpt taken from The Mosquito Magnet® website.

The Mosquito Magnet® mimics a human by emitting a plume of carbon dioxide (CO<sup>2</sup>), heat and moisture, and an additional attractant, octenol. This precise combination is irresistible to female mosquitoes (the ones that bite), no-see-ums, biting midges, black flies, and sandflies. As the mosquito approaches hoping for a human, it is quietly vacuumed into a net where it dehydrates and dies. Silent, odorless, no mess.

By using the Mosquito Magnet® continuously throughout the mosquito season, you will be able to capture both day- and night-biting mosquitoes, thereby drastically reducing the mosquito population in your yard.

For more information check the website at [www.mosquitomagnet.com](http://www.mosquitomagnet.com), or visit the nearest Home Depot.

## ADOPT A TREE WELL — TAKE PRIDE IN YOUR BLOCK

Real Estate agents insist that even a vacant house will sell if it's on a tree-lined street. Or put another way, houses are more marketable and bring a higher price if they are on a nicely kept street.

Please consider adopting a tree well if you haven't already done so. There are plenty around the park and in front of our houses. They are approximately 4' x 4' in diameter. Keeping them clean is a big plus, but the ones with flowers are the ones everybody notices.

## S&W Meats

Always fresh meat, cut the way  
you want it. Available at

**Hollins Market. Stalls 179-180. 410-685-8187.**

*Stop in at Hollins Market. You'll be surprised at what you've been missing.*



## NEWS ON MR. MENCKEN'S HOUSE

By his own estimation, H.L. Mencken penned ten million words in a nearly fifty year career as a journalist, literary critic and cultural gadfly. From his home at 1524 Hollins Street (it held six-thousand books!) on Union Square, Mencken took aim at American life and letters in a fashion never before seen, and unlikely to ever be seen again. A true American original, he reportedly said of Sinclair Lewis' *Main Street*, "That idiot has written a masterpiece." Mencken is also famous for having coined the term "Bible Belt." Doesn't that sound just like one of your neighbors?

Although his legacy lives on (see *The Skeptic* by Terry Teachout), his house has found the going a bit rough. In the years since the demise of the City Life Museums, the property has fallen between the cracks as it were and many have wondered what would become of it. Wonder no more.

Roughly a year ago, the *Baltimore Sun*, at the behest of then publisher Michael Waller, began to investigate the possibility of acquiring the house and developing plans for its return to public life. This decision was in part motivated by Mr. Waller's concern that as a new, highly touted biography (*The Skeptic*) hit the bookstores, the house was about ready to slide into the street. No one, least of all the publisher of the *Sun*, felt that this would reflect well on the city or on Mencken's longtime employer. The *Sun* began to introduce this idea to interested parties citywide. Those parties – Enoch Pratt Library, Goucher College (Mencken's wife, Sarah, taught there) Maryland Historical Society, The Friends of the Mencken House, The Mencken Society and Union Square Association — met with the *Sun* and began a discussion centered on the notion of The *Sun* acquiring the house. While not everyone involved was exactly wild about the idea, many were, and it was generally agreed that the *Sun*'s acquisition of the house was the best scenario available and given the city's strong support of this idea, it was decided by all to move forward.



 1932 photograph of H.L. Mencken.

Fast forward to the present. Currently an advisory board made up of one person from each of the above-named entities plus two individuals from The *Sun* are meeting monthly to address the many issues that arise from such an undertaking. The immediate concern, (a stipulation by the City) is the creation of a new non-profit, to which the house would be sold.

Discussions are well underway as to public use. Initially, it is thought the house will be developed as a writer's center, not a museum. Once the first phase of rehabilitation is completed, (no date on that yet, as transfer of ownership is still underway) plans are to begin holding small public readings by noted authors as a way of reintroducing the house to the public.

Stay tuned!

Questions? Write to: Richard Pelletier -  
richpell1269@hotmail.com

## VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH

### Erika Brockman.

Erika is a wonderful volunteer and neighbor. She gets our kudos for organizing the Union Square Tag Sale and Easter Egg Hunt. Erika will receive a \$20 gift certificate to Ban Thai and our heart felt gratitude.

To nominate someone, send us an email to [newsletter@union-square.us](mailto:newsletter@union-square.us) or write to: Volunteer of the Month c/o Union Square Association, P.O. Box 20520, Baltimore, MD 21223.

## BAN THAI

RESTAURANT

Authentic Thai Cuisine, just minutes  
from Union Square.

340 North Charles Street  
Baltimore, MD 21201

**410-727-0125**



# REAL ESTATE

## UNION SQUARE PROPERTIES FOR SALE!

This list is sorted by price – and includes single family residential plus multi-family residential. Commercial properties are shown below the residential properties. The list is updated every Friday.

**SOLD** \$210,000 - 1602 Hollins St.

MLS: BA4506085

Bedrooms: 5 | Full Baths: 2 | Half Baths: 1 | Year Built: 1920 | Total Taxes: \$1932 | Tax Year: 2002 | Style: Italianate | Lot Acreage: 0.04 | Lot Square Feet: | Cooling: A/C | Heating: | Levels: 3 | Fireplaces: 2 | Garage Spaces: 2 | Parking: No | Basement: Yes | Basement Type: Full, Unfinished | Hot Water: | Exterior: Brick

\$165,000 - 1712 W. Lombard St.

Remarks: Totally Rehabbed: three efficiency units; one 1 bedroom, 10 blocks from University of Maryland Hospital. Ideal for students - furnished units. Hardwood floors throughout.

MLS: BA4324480

Total Taxes: \$289 | Tax Year: 2002 | Lot Acreage: 0.06 | Cooling: None | Heating: Radiator | Appliances: Oven/Range (Gas), Refrigerator | Levels: 3 | Fireplaces: 0 | Garage Spaces: 0 | Parking: No | Basement: Yes | Basement Type: Partial, Unfinished | Hot Water: Natural Gas | Exterior: Brick

NEW Listing!

\$110,000 - 14 Gilmor St.

MLS: BA4523261

Bedrooms: 4 | Full Baths: 2 | Half Baths: 1 | Year Built: 1900 | Total Taxes: \$1,693 | Tax Year: 2002 | Lot Acreage: 0.04 | Lot Square Feet: 1530 | Cooling: Window units | Heating: Forced Air | Levels: 3 | Fireplaces: 2 | Garage Spaces: | Parking: No | Basement: Yes | Basement Type: Partial | Hot Water: Natural Gas | Exterior: Brick

Reduced from \$68,500 (April 11th) \$65,000 - 1136 W. Pratt St.

Remarks: Outstanding, completely renovated 4 bedroom home – short walk to harbor. Lots of space and a stone's throw from Mt. Claire shopping center. Baltimore at your fingertips and easy commute to DC. Baltimore history all around. Railroad museum, Babe Ruth museum and Edgar Allen Poe home. Stroll to see Ravens or Orioles play or take a ride on water taxi. This is one to remember as home.

MLS: BA4279446

Bedrooms: 4 | Full Baths: 1 | Half Baths: 1 | Year Built: 1900 | Total Taxes: \$295 | Tax Year: 2001 | Lot Acreage: 0.02 | Lot Square Feet: 709 | Cooling: Ceiling Fan(s) | Heating: Forced Air | Appliances: Dishwasher | Levels: 3 | Fireplaces: 0 | Garage Spaces: 0 | Parking: No | Basement: Yes | Basement Type: Fully Finished | Hot Water: Natural Gas | Exterior: Brick

\$30,000 - 1515 Lemmon St.

MLS: BA4446240

Bedrooms: 1 | Full Baths: 1 | Half Baths: 0 | Year Built: 1900 | Total Taxes: \$410 | Tax Year: 2002 | Lot Acreage: 0.01 | Lot Square Feet: 525 | Cooling: None | Heating: Radiator | Levels: 2 | Fireplaces: 1 | Garage Spaces: 0 | Parking: No | Basement: Yes | Basement Type: Unfinished | Hot Water: Electric | Exterior: Brick front |

\$29,900 - 123 S. Schroeder St.

MLS: BA4275726

Bedrooms: 3 | Full Baths: 1 | Half Baths: 0 | Total Taxes: \$492 | Tax Year: 2001 | Lot Acreage: 0.02 | Lot Square Feet: 732 | Cooling: Window Unit(s) | Heating: Radiator | Levels: 2 | Fireplaces: 0 | Garage Spaces: 0 | Parking: No | Basement: Yes | Basement Type: Unfinished | Hot Water: Natural Gas | Exterior: Brick |

\$15,000 - 1228 W. Pratt St.

MLS: BA4279947

Bedrooms: 1 | Full Baths: 1 | Half Baths: 0 | Year Built: 1900 | Style: Federal | Lot Acreage: 0.02 | Levels: 2 | Fireplaces: 0 | Garage Spaces: 0 | Parking: No | Basement: Yes | Basement Type: Unfinished | Hot Water: Natural Gas | Exterior: Precast concrete, Other



**Melvin Knight, Realtor**  
**Daniel Motz, Realtor**

### Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage

Whether you are buying or selling property in Union Square, Coldwell Banker Realtors, **Melvin Knight** and **Daniel Motz** will make your experience a hassle-free one.

**312 Wyndhurst Ave. Baltimore, MD 21210**  
**410-433-7800**

**Melvin Knight – Mobile: 410-903-7800**  
**Daniel Motz – Mobile: 443-415-3160**

Union Square



**Special thanks...**

...go out to all the hard-working members of the Southern Police Department for keeping our neighborhood safe with 24-hour patrols and surveillance.