



Abell Improvement Association Newsletter

March 2016

The Medium is the Message.

Marshall McLuhan, 1911-1980

Philosopher McLuhan's famous aphorism reminds us that *how* our efforts to communicate are received by others depends very much on the means we use to convey our messages. The means employed by AIA range from our old fashioned **kiosk** and **sandwich boards** to social media blasts on **Facebook**. We also send information through our **members' listserv** and this electronically-created, but until now traditionally distributed, **print newsletter**.

A lot of volunteer labor goes into maintaining each of these devices. Open Space Committee Chair *Haakon Maxwell* keeps postings on the kiosk (which was built by a former Abell resident) up to date. He also sets up and takes down the sandwich boards, - spiffy new editions of which were recently constructed by neighbor *Matt Fouse*. *Joel Urbanowicz* set up the AIA Facebook page and keeps it current, with the help of *Drew Northrup*. *Bonnie Bessor* maintains the membership list which is the basis for the listserv, overseen by *Emil Volcheck*. *Shelley Treadway* edits and lays out the newsletter and also coordinates its distribution by a team of more than 20 neighbors. A salute is in order to each of these individuals for their contributions to community communications.

One other means of communication is the association's **website**. *Didon Pachner* has performed yeowoman service as webmaster of the original AIA site. Last year *Teresa Pfaff*, *Joel Urbanowicz* and Joel's brother *Todd Urbanowicz* began work on a new site to which they have transferred the AIA domain, abellimprovement.org. They have brought it to a place where I can periodically send out announcements, and our Communications Committee (*Shelley* and *Teresa*) can publish a digital version of the newsletter. They will be introducing many other features of the site in the months to come.

If there is an over-arching message that we want our multiple media to convey, it is that we strive to communicate with as many Abell residents as we can and we are dedicated to making AIA efforts open and accessible to everyone, thereby fostering a well-informed community. They will be introducing many other features of the site in the months to come.

Website edition update

This is our first newsletter publication on the new AIA website. As the fire at The Book Thing of Baltimore occurred after the print edition went to press, we were able to add a story about the fire for the website edition, and include the flyer for The Book Thing fundraiser at the Thursday trivia night at Peabody Heights Brewing – see pages 4 and 5.

Jo Ann Robinson
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www.abellimprovement.org

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The AIA in Action

To “maintain our community’s appearance, safety and good order” and “represent the community’s interests to local and state government” are two of the purposes of AIA. Recent efforts on these fronts include:

- **Pressing the City Department of Transportation to improve safety conditions at Guilford Avenue and 32nd Street and by the Abell Open Space.** We delivered a packet of residents’ letters and emails to DOT Director William Johnson when about 25 residents met with him and Councilwoman Mary Pat Clarke in December 2015 at the traffic circle. He verbally agreed that the traffic circle was not working. In February his Deputy Chief, Graham Young, reported to Mary Pat and AIA that **THE DEPARTMENT WILL INSTALL FOUR STOP SIGNS AT THE INTERSECTION.** On March 1 Director Johnson confirmed with Mary Pat that **THEY WILL ALSO INSTALL SPEED HUMPS BY THE ABELL OPEN SPACE.** The work will occur “within the construction season of Spring to Fall 2016.” Thanks to everyone who took the time to write to and meet with Mr. Johnson and **EXTRA SPECIAL THANKS TO MARY PAT CLARKE.**
- **Appealing for better U.S. Mail delivery services by the Waverly Post Office.** In response to this appeal, originating in a discussion at the January membership meeting, on February 8, 2016 managers at the Waverly P.O. instituted a three-point “action plan to increase service quality for the Abell neighborhood”, consisting of (1) “random case checks in the morning to ensure the mail is being filed correctly in the office...; (2) random delivery checks on the street [with] management going to random addresses and verifying that the mail is being delivered to the correct address; (3) street supervision with carriers.” For our part AIA has pledged to monitor this plan and report to the post office managers in four months on the degree to which service has improved. *Please help us by reporting both good and bad experiences you have with mail service between now and June. Send your reports to Abell President Jo Ann Robinson, jooiman64@gmail.com*
- **Critiquing City snow-removal policies and practices.** After the January 22-23 visit from snow storm Jonah, having Abell divided into three different “zones” for snow removal made little sense and caused much frustration, as the city cleared some streets (e.g. 3100 and 3200 blocks of Abell) and ignored others (3000 block of Abell). Residents brought this complaint and a list of other snow removal issues to the attention of Council-woman Clarke, when she attended the January membership meeting. At her request we put the list into a formal letter to the City Council and will send a representative to testify on **TUESDAY MARCH 8 IN CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS AT 100 N. HOLLIDAY STREET. THE HEARING BEGINS AT 10:30 a.m.** If you can attend to support the Abell testimony and/or if you would like to speak your own piece on this topic: the more the merrier!

Wednesday, March 9, 2016: Baltimore Education Coalition Night in Annapolis

The current city school budget falls \$2000 per pupil below what the state defines as “adequate funding.” Governor Hogan’s proposed budget for 2016 would push this figure even lower, to \$2500 below “adequate.” Along with the Governor’s cuts, city schools are losing money from the state funding formula that is based in significant part on property tax revenues. The recent uptick in development in Baltimore City, in which the developers are given hefty tax breaks, creates an artificial increase in city taxable wealth on paper and a real and damaging subtraction from the amount of money provided to the city by the state funding formula. On March 9 buses will roll from the city to Annapolis in time to arrive there at 6:30 p.m. – one bus will be leaving from Barclay School – with parents, educators, and all citizens committed to adequate and fair state investment in the students of Baltimore City.

Any Abell resident who would like to participate should contact Jo Ann Robinson who will coordinate registration and bus seat reservations with BEC and Barclay staff. jooiman64@msn.com

For more information about and from BEC, check Facebook and their website: <http://becforourkids.org>

Charles Village Benefits District Public Hearing March 22

At 7 p.m. on Tuesday, March 22, 2016 at 2200 St. Paul Street (Lovely Lane Church) the Board and Director of the Benefits District will hear residents’ views on the CVCBD Financial Plan for fiscal year 2016-2017, which begins July 1, 2016. The plan covers the proposed surcharge tax rate and the budget and program mix for the new fiscal year. To read the budget and program details visit CVCBD’s website: <http://charlesvillage.org/>

29th Street Community Center Launches Speaker Series on March 21 with Former Mayor Kurt L. Schmoke



On Monday March 21, the 29th Street Community Center launches the Gertrude S. Williams Lecture Series with the theme Positive Community Engagement. The series honors Gertrude Williams, the esteemed Barclay Elementary & Middle School Principal from 1971-98. Ms. Williams remains keenly interested in the well-being of the school and the surrounding communities. Kurt L. Schmoke will deliver the inaugural lecture. Appointed President of the University of Baltimore in May 2015, Mr. Schmoke has a distinguished record of public service, serving 5 years as State's Attorney for Baltimore City, 1982-85, and 12 years as Mayor of Baltimore, 1987-99. With the deadline for voter registration for the Presidential Primary on April 5, volunteers will assist with voter registration before and after Mr. Schmoke's lecture. Doors open at 6:15 p.m. at the 29th Street Community Center, 300 E. 29th Street. The lecture will begin at 7:00 p.m. and the event will conclude at 8:30 p.m.

Community Center Welcomes New Staff

The mission of the 29th Street Community Center is to offer a space for meaningful community building and high quality enrichment programming that adds value and vibrancy to the surrounding neighborhoods. Please feel free to reach out if you have any questions about programming, space rentals or community events.

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Terry Boyer - Remembering a Generous Neighbor

Terrance Joseph Boyer, resident of the Woodrow Apartments for the last several years, died of cancer in February 2016. He was 49 years old. Terry's generosity and ebullience cheered me on many a day. We were all touched by how his compassion and friendship brought peace and comfort to our neighbor, Bob Rose (d. 2013) in the closing period of his life. As the following remembrance shows, Terry was an uplifting presence for all who met him.

Jo Ann Robinson



We three called him Mr. Terry. He was one of the kindest, most generous persons we know. He lived by the saying that the only stranger he knew was the friend he hadn't yet met. He shared food with many neighbors,

including us - fresh produce, bread, pastries and homemade soup. During snowstorms he shoveled out our car, cleared our sidewalks and made a path in the alley from 30th Street to his basement apartment and our back gate. Terry liked to make things beautiful, creating a flower garden and what he called his Veranda outside his apartment, complete with flower baskets, a TV and holiday lights. He loved eating steamed crabs and listening to music on his Veranda. He loved animals, including his neighbors' dogs, the cat he adopted from Vonnie and the birds he fed and for whom he provided a bird bath. His generosity toward people, animals, the neighborhood and the earth continued when he was sick and receiving chemotherapy. He often said, "God still has work for me to do."

Mikayla and Terry had a special friendship. Over our back fence they shared stories, plans and schemes. He had a dream of having a red carpet party for neighbors and friends in the stretch of alley from 30th Street to the Woodrow parking lot. He talked with Mikayla about riding down the red carpet in rolling chairs. Picturing that seems a perfect way to remember our dear neighbor and friend.

Cassandra Orem, Vonnie Gowe and Mikayla

A Message from Major Gibson at the Northern District

I have set up an email address for my fellow community members of the Northern District to use when you have questions pertaining strictly to the Northern District. This new email address is northernquestions@baltimorepolice.org.

Emails sent to this address will be answered by members of my staff here in the Northern District. This is not to be used in lieu of Metro Crime Stoppers or other tip lines.

Major Gibson

City to Provide Municipal Trash Cans for Residents

Baltimore City is providing one free 65-gallon trash can to every residential address that currently receives trash collection service by the City. Using these cans will help keep our neighborhoods and waterways clean, reduce the rodent population, reduce strain on our workers and make trash collection more efficient.

Distribution of the cans in Abell is scheduled for March. Please begin using your can as soon as it arrives.

Cans are assigned specifically to each address, remain the property of the City, and should not be altered or defaced with letters, names, stickers, numbers, or symbols. To identify the new cans, DPW recommends that the residents write down the serial number on the front of the new cans. It is allowable to attach a luggage tag to the handle with the resident's address for ID purposes.

For more information about the City's Municipal Trash Can program or for answers to frequently asked questions, please visit the DPW website: <http://publicworks.baltimorecity.gov>.

Fire Damages The Book Thing of Baltimore

A fire in the early morning of March 2 severely damaged the building housing The Book Thing of Baltimore on Vineyard Lane. Thousands of books were also damaged or destroyed. Book Thing founder Russell Wattenberg and his volunteers now face a massive clean-up effort - and the burden of paying for extensive repairs.

Book Thing will be open the weekend of March 5 & 6, offering books in the parking lot in front of the building. After that, it will be closed until further notice. Russell asks that donations of books be withheld for the time being, as he has nowhere to put them.

Donations of cash and volunteer time are another thing entirely. Book Thing welcomes credit card donations at its website www.bookthing.org. The street address for donations by check is 3001 Vineyard Lane. All donations of money are tax-deductible. And please attend the trivia night fundraiser at Peabody Heights Brewing on Thursday, March 10 at 7 p.m. (see flyer on next page).

In the almost exactly 10 years since its move to Vineyard Lane, Book Thing has become an invaluable part of the Abell community. In that time its unique status as a free bookstore has won Book Thing not only local but national recognition, with articles in the New York Times, the Chicago Tribune, and elsewhere. Russell and his wife Didon live in the Abell community as well. We are incredibly fortunate to count this generous and public-spirited couple and Book Thing itself as neighbors.

It's now our turn to be generous. Even if you're not a regular browser of Book Thing's shelves, please visit the website and make a donation. If you are a regular visitor, now is the time to give something back to this remarkable institution that has given us so much over the years.

Thank You Newsletter Delivery Volunteers

Thank you to all AIA Newsletter deliverers for your timely work bringing Abell news to the community in 2015:

Jim Anthony	Freda Kirkham
Judy Berlin	Michael Klima
Allison Campbell	Val Kuciauskas
Danielle Corcoran	Haakon Maxwell
Maureen Daly	Paul & Carlene Moscatt
Joe DeMarco	Didon Pachner
Annette Fallon	Susanne Riveles
John Fink	Jo Ann Robinson
Veronica Franco	Bill Surine
Judith Geller	Julie Neale Taylor
Peter Gottlieb	Michael Treadway
Audrey Huang	Gina Weaver
Janet Kahoe	Jonathan Wetmiller

Monthly Trivia at
Peabody Heights Brewery!!
Thursday, March 10th – 7pm

This time for a good cause!

trivia

bake sale

raffle drawings

All proceeds will go directly to
THE BOOK THING

The trivia was created by your neighbors who love trivial things. All are welcome! There is no set limit for team sizes...just be reasonable. Topics and format will vary. Expect this sort of thing every month! This month we are trying to raise money to help The Book Thing recover from the recent fire at their building.

401 E 30th Street – 7 pm – Thursday, March 10th

Organized with support
of the Abell Improvement
Association





Winter/Spring Calendar 2016

Monday, January 4th — Friday, June 3rd

To register fill out the online registration form

<http://goo.gl/forms/l1aunF3ebG>

or pick up a hardcopy at The Center

300 East 29th Street Baltimore, Maryland 21218

443-213-0394

For more information go to: <http://bit.ly/1M3tJAX>

**To ensure registration, you also must contact the instructor, using the email address, phone number or website listed.*

KIDS PROGRAMS

Sing-Along Playgroup

Ages: 0-Pre-K

Cost: FREE

Join the Sing-Along Playgroup where parents and caregivers bring their little ones for play, sing-along, and community.

Days/Times: Mondays 10:00-11:30am

Coordinator: Odette Ramos, (443) 801-8137, odette@odetteramos.com

Reading Club

Ages: 6-11

Cost: FREE

Enjoy reading enrichment activities including group reading, poetry writing and more.

Days/ Times: Thursdays 6:00-7:00pm

Instructor: Hilary Matzinger, (410) 456-8793

Crazy 8s Math Club

Ages: Grades K-2

Cost: FREE

Join our new math club to discover how much fun hands on, creative math activities can be! This program is brought to us through the national Bedtime Math organization.

Days/Times: Tuesdays (grades 3-5) and Wednesdays 6:30-7:30pm (grades K-2) (2/10-6/3)

Instructor: Julie Neale Taylor, 410-340-5428, jnealet@hotmail.com (K-2)

Instructor: Jennifer Rolling, jenny.rolling@gmail.com

Project More Love: Baltimore Edition

Ages: 13-15

Cost: FREE

To gather a geographically diverse group of girls from Baltimore City to answer the question "What Unites Us?" through the medium of modern dance.

Days/Times: Saturdays 4:30-6:00pm

Instructor: Lindsey Hedrick, 724-787-8608, lindseyhedrick@hotmail.com

Jump for Joy

Ages: 6-15

Cost: FREE

Learn basic & intermediate jump rope skills – single rope, double Dutch & long rope. Physical activity, new skills, & teamwork!

Days/Times: Saturdays 10:45-11:45am

Instructor: Kim Landes, (202) 409-4368, kimberly_landes@hotmail.com

Shange Dance Academy

Ages: 3-18

Cost: \$12/class or \$40/month

Modern/Contemporary dance class for children and teens.

Days/Times: Saturdays 11:00am-2:00pm

Instructor: Kutia Jawara, (410)-652-9024, KAJawara@icloud.com

ALL AGES PROGRAMS

Open Gym

Ages: See below

Cost: FREE

Join the community for high energy drop-in basketball games!

Day/Times: Mondays (Ages 17+) 5:30-7:30pm

Wednesdays (Ages 16 and under) 5:30-7:30pm

Saturdays (All ages) 12:00-2:00pm

Zumba

Ages: 12+

Cost: \$7

A fusion of fitness, entertainment, and culture into exhilarating dance-fitness!

Days/Times: Wednesdays and Thursdays 6:45-7:45pm

Instructor: Monet Camper, 443-983-0420, msojuicy21@gmail.com.

Breakin' Class (Break Dancing)

Ages: 9+

Cost: FREE

Breakin' is an all inclusive break dancing class to improve technique, flexibility, strength, endurance, self esteem, discipline, creativity, fostering a sense of community, and a bonus educational piece on hip-hop culture!!!

Days/Times: Tuesdays 5:00-6:00pm

Instructor: Jimmy Pope, james.e.pope@gmail.com

Parent and Child Yoga

Ages: 5-12 (plus parent/guardian) Cost: FREE

A yoga class dedicated to the physical and mental health of parents and their children. This program also aims to strengthen parental bonds and respect through group and parent exercises.

Days/Times: Thursdays 6:30pm-7:30pm

\$60/6 weeks or \$12 drop in (cash only)

Instructor: Audrey Ginger, augin001@mail.goucher.edu, 603-264-4405

ADULT PROGRAMS

Baltimore Yoga Village—Beginner's Yoga Series

Ages: 18+

Cost:

In this course you will learn basic alignment guidelines to help you move more deeply and confidently into your yoga practice. Class will include warming up, gentle stretching, guided postures and relaxation.

Days/Times: Session A—Tuesday 6-7:30pm, Jan. 12—March 1

Session B—Tuesday 6-7:30pm, March 8—April 12

Instructors: Ryan Sansing (Session A), Tonika Garibaldi (Session B), baltimoreyogavillage@gmail.com

Register online here: <http://www.baltimoreyogavillage.com/6-10-week-specialty-courses/>

N Life Relationship Goals Workshops

Ages: 18+

Cost: \$10/workshop

This meeting provides a monthly interactive workshop for couples and singles designed to help promote successful relationships.

Days/Times: Second Saturday of each month 2-5pm

Alcoholics Anonymous Meetings—no registration required

Ages: 18+

Cost: FREE, donations welcome

Days/Times: Mondays 6:30-7:30pm

Table Tennis Club

Ages: 18+

Cost: Free

This meeting provides regular and organized opportunities for ping pong enthusiasts to meet and play.

Days/Times: Thursday 6-8:00pm

Saturday 11am-1pm



Rent a Room at the 29th Street Community Center!

Perfect for birthday parties, meetings, and more!

For more information and package deals, go to

<http://bit.ly/1Dx5Wau>

Contact 29SCC@strongcitybaltimore.org or 443-213-0394

- Bulletin Board -

Officers Contact List

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AIA Quarterly General Membership Meetings 2016

Mark your calendars and plan to attend the quarterly AIA membership meetings. Wednesday meetings are held at the 29th Street Community Center, 300 E. 29th Street
Saturday meetings are at the Waverly Branch of the Enoch Pratt Free Library, 400 E. 33rd Street

- ◆ Wednesday, April 20- 6:30 p.m.
- ◆ Saturday, August 27 – 10:30 a.m.
- ◆ Wednesday, November 16 – 6:30 p.m.
- ◆ Saturday, January 21, 2017 – 10:30 a.m.

29th Street Community Center WINTER/SPRING PROGRAMS

See full program guide insert in this newsletter for all the details of classes and how to sign up.

Contact Elyse Preston, EPreston@strongcitybaltimore.org, or 443-213-0394, to learn more about programs, space rentals, or volunteering

Trash & Recycling Schedule

TRASH

EVERY TUESDAY



RECYCLING

EVERY THURSDAY

Trash may be put out after 6 p.m. the night before, by 6 a.m. the day of pick-up. Residents may be fined for trash disposal violations.

Please send **newsletter contributions** to Shelley Treadway, 3026 Abell Avenue, or email to sbtreadway@aol.com

Deadlines for newsletter submissions:

- ◆ March 25 Spring Issue
- ◆ May 17 Film Series Issue
- ◆ July 17 Street Fair Issue
- ◆ September 17 Fall Issue
- ◆ November 17 Holiday Issue

Volunteer newsletter delivery persons are needed for several blocks in Abell. If you can spare 30 minutes of your time, six times each year, and would like a little stair-stepping exercise, please contact sbtreadway@aol.com.