



Abell Improvement Association Newsletter

April 2016

Dear Neighbors:

Love is something if you give it away...You end up having more.

“The Magic Penny” by Malvina Reynolds.

The Abell community owes much of its attraction to the loving, giving spirit of its residents.

Russell Wattenberg is a prime example. Through the amazing venue of The Book Thing, he and his wife **Didon Pachner** nurture book lovers, inspire volunteers and add panache to the neighborhood. When fire ravaged their facility last month, the rush to be of comfort and service to them was instantaneous. The Abell Trivia Night turned in a week’s time into a fundraiser which hundreds of supporters attended at the Peabody Heights Brewery. Proceeds from the beer and food they enjoyed and the raffle items on which they took chances, along with contributions at the door, netted \$7,000.00 – all from goods donated by neighbors, well-wishers, from far and wide, and local businesses. Contributions are still welcome via Russell’s website (<http://www.Bookthing.org>). The need for volunteers will continue (and we have no doubt will be met) to help with the hard labor of demolition and rebuilding which is expected to take about 10 months.

In Barclay Street resident, **Haakon Maxwell**, we find another instance of love given and returned in multifold measure. As chair of the Abell Open Space committee he has been an indefatigable, and at times, fierce steward. By showing the City a thing or two about how to update a Memo of Understanding, and conscientiously enforcing the MOU’s terms (not always a popular task), while making certain that the grass is mowed and the sidewalks are cleared, he has taken great care of our treasured swatch of green. On top of which there are the rockin’ Abell Community Street Fairs of 2014 and 2015, into which he and **Joel Urbanowicz** poured their time and energy, not to mention their hearts. And on top of that: untold instances of generosity and kindness as an AIA officer, neighbor and friend to many. Now **Haakon, his wife Marina and their children Sullivan and Maeve** are decamping to a larger home in Medfield. We trust that they are taking good memories of Abell with them. Certainly they are leaving a positive imprint on this community.

As we carry on, we are optimistic that the void Haakon leaves will be ably filled. Already **Matt Fouse** has taken on one of his many chores - the literal heavy-lifting of AIA’s signature sandwich boards that announce meetings and other events. *Getting the Open Space committee reorganized is our next priority.*

Anyone who is available to help with that, please contact me. Even before the news of the Maxwells’ departure we knew that Haakon and Joel would be passing on their *Street Fair* responsibilities to other residents: a triumvirate of AIA officers, Vice President **Jackson Gilman Forlini**, Treasurer **Courtney McManus**, and representative to CVCBD **Drew Northrup**. With most members from last year’s Street Fair committee having signaled their willingness to work again, and with high hopes of attracting new recruits, the three committee chairs are sending out the call for the first planning meeting. See page 2 in this newsletter and please make an effort to respond. Working with AIA on these and other projects is a great way to spend your Magic Penny: “Hold it tight and you won’t have any / Lend it, spend it, and you’ll have so many / They’ll roll all over the floor!” An Active and Rewarding Spring to All.

Jo Ann Robinson

President, Abell Improvement Association

www.abellimprovement.org

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2016 Abell Street Fair Set for September 18

Mark your calendars! The Abell Community Street Fair Committee is pleased to announce that this year's fair will be held **Sunday, September 18, from 12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.** After a triumphant success last year, Joel Urbanowicz and Haakon Maxwell are stepping down from chairing the committee and we thank them for their past service. This year, the committee is led by Jackson Gilman-Forlini, Courtney McManus, and Drew Northrup.

Organizing the fair is a herculean effort that requires the help of many volunteers. A preemptive thank you goes out to last year's committee members who have signed on for 2016. However, we are still looking for a few individuals who are "willing and abell" to help plan the fair and can attend most of the biweekly meetings from now until September. The kick-off meeting for the fair committee will be held **Sunday, April 24 at 3:00 p.m.** at 331 E. 30th Street. Contact Jackson Gilman-Forlini (jgilmanforlini@gmail.com) if you are interested in volunteering. Together, we look forward to making this year's fair another success for our neighborhood.

Thank you,

The 2016 AIA Street Fair Committee



Hula hoop fun at the Abell Street Fair

Welcome Abell Babies

From Jessie Weber & Nancy Eddy: *"We welcomed Noa Lillian Weber into this world on February 24. She weighed 8 lbs. 9 oz. and measured 22 inches long. We are enjoying Noa's delicious cheeks, observant eyes, and cute little hand movements. Noa is enjoying trips to the farmers' market, hanging out on the front porch, and getting to know her new Abell Avenue best friends: next door neighbor Guthrie and down-the-street neighbor Anya."*

And from next door neighbors Rachel Bone and Phil Davis:

Phil and I welcomed a son, Guthrie Birch Davis, on 3/13. We're all doing great and have been loving the first few weeks together.

Congratulations to Jessie and Nancy, and to Rachel and Phil!

Get well wishes go out to **Pat Alexiou** of the 3000 block of Abell. She is resting at home after a hospital stint for major surgery. Having become a regular Neighborhood Walker, she was greatly missed at the March walk and porch party. We hope she will be up to partying with us again soon.



Jolene Fouse tests out her new ride

A Note of Thanks from The Book Thing of Baltimore

Dear AIA,

WOW. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you. I can't describe how uplifting it was to see all the work AIA put in to make The Book Thing benefit such a success in just 1 week. Before the ashes were cold Emil Volcheck drove by letting me know the AIA was making their Trivia night into a fundraiser. The turnout was incredible, between beer, trivia, The Book Thing and food there was bound to be a crowd.

It means so much that our neighbors came to our aid. It was special seeing the whole neighborhood, young and old, renters and homeowners, and democrats and republicans, all in one place with a common goal, helping The Book Thing rebuild.

We're so fortunate to be part of this community.

Yours in books,

Russell and Didon

Brews News

Abell's inaugural winter film series ended last week with a showing of the Sting. While there are still some bugs to be worked out, there is no question that this is something worth repeating. The highlight of this year's series was, without question, watching Best in Show in the middle of the largest snowfall in Baltimore history. We look forward to showing more films next winter, and would invite any feedback.

Moreover, we owe Peabody Heights a profound debt of gratitude for helping to put together a successful, crowded, and elaborate fundraiser at the last minute. The March 10th Trivia night raised \$7000 for the Book Thing. Thanks to the 49 teams that came and played, and it should be noted that Abell was represented on the top two winning teams. We are hoping to make this a monthly event, and look forward to seeing you again on April 14th at 7 p.m. for the next trivia night.

Drew Northrup

Gertrude S. Williams Inaugural Lecture Series

March 21, 2016, 29th Street Community Center

A capacity crowd greeted the former Barclay School Principal with a standing ovation at the unveiling of the plaque commemorating the quarterly lecture series in her name. The plaque hangs in the entrance hall.

The name of each speaker will be added as the series progresses. The next lecture, by award winning author, rapper and film-maker, MK Asante, will be June 20, 2016, at 7:00 p.m.



Ms. Gertrude S. Williams with guest speaker and former mayor Kurt L. Schmoke (Photo by Bill Carson)

Thank You Newsletter Delivery Volunteers

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

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

Solar Co-Op Information Session

When: Tuesday, April 12, 2015, 6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Where: 29th Street Community Center, 300 East 29th Street, Baltimore, MD 21218

Neighbors in the Baltimore region are going solar as a group and getting a discount. Based on the same principle as buying in bulk, homeowners will save around 25% off the cost of a solar system. Your Retrofit Baltimore Energy Advisor will provide you with trusted information and guide you through each step of the process. He or she will offer personalized assistance, answer questions, and ensure that you receive quality service from your contractor.

Anyone located in Baltimore City, Baltimore County, Howard County, and Anne Arundel County is welcome to join.

Come to the info session or call **410-929-6139**.

Benefits

Bulk Purchasing Discount
Increased Property Value
Lower Electricity Bills
Protection from Rising Energy Costs



To learn more, go to:
<http://retrofitbaltimore.civicworks.com/go-solar/>

- Bulletin Board -

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**Memorial Day
Weekend
Community
Picnic**

Sunday, May 29 · 5:00 p.m.

Come enjoy an afternoon
with your neighbors for hot
dogs, hamburgers and
drinks.

Bring a dish to share.

Abell Open Space

32nd Street between Abell & Guilford



**AIA Quarterly
Membership Meeting**

Wednesday, April 20
6:30 p.m.

Guest Speakers:
Tiffany Walker, DPW
Ralph Moore –
Peace Camp 2016

Light Snacks will be served.

**29th Street Community Center
300 East 29th Street**

Abell Neighborhood Walks

When: Last Tuesday of every month

Where: Leave from the Abell Open Space

Who: Neighbors, Benefits District Security and
Baltimore Northern District Police

Why: For a pro-active, safe, informed community

Time: 7:00 p.m.

**Trash & Recycling
Schedule
TRASH
EVERY TUESDAY
∞
RECYCLING
EVERY THURSDAY
DUMPSTER DATES:**

***Saturday, April 16
Saturday, April 23
Saturday, May 21
31st Street at Abell***

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

Deadlines for newsletter submissions:

- ◆ 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.